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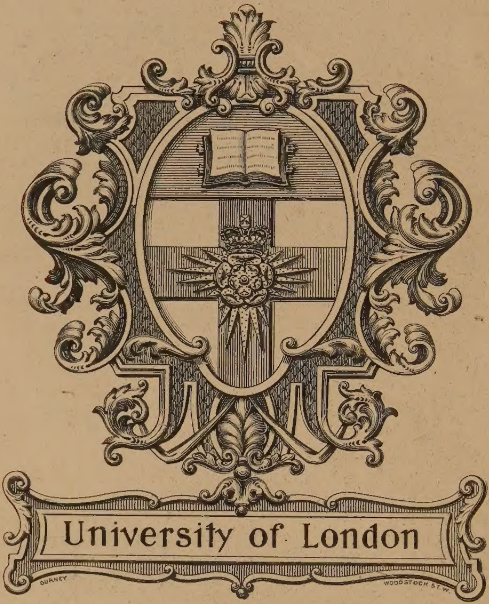

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THE

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

AUTHORISED EDITION.

## FOURTH SERIES,

COMMENCING WITH THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

## 60 VICTORIÆ.

## VOLUME XLIII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM
THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF JULY
TO
THE SIXTH DAY OF AUGUST,
1896.

WATERLOW & SONS LIMITED,
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PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS OF
"THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES," AUTHORISED EDITION
(UNDER CONTRACT WITH H. M. GOVERNMENT).

S. 29127

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# VOLUME XLIII.

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"That for the remainder of the Session Government Business be not interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the sittings of the House, and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed; and that at the conclusion of Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without question put."—(*First Lord of the Treasury*) ... ... 154

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" and that the interests of the landlord in portions of his estate on which the *a prendre* easement, turbary or privilege is to be exercised will not be thereby injuriously affected."—(*Mr. Carson*)—agreed to ... ... ... 227

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"(2.) This section shall not apply to a tenancy in a holding which at the date of the letting was demesne land where the application of the Land Law Acts to the tenancy would materially diminish the value as a residence of the mansion house situate on and theretofore occupied with the demesne."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 237

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"That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of any sums, not exceeding in the whole £4,775,000, for the execution of certain Military Works, and to authorise the Treasury to borrow by means of terminable annuities payable out of moneys to be provided by Parliament for Army Services, and if those moneys are insufficient, out of the Consolidated Fund, such sums as may be required for the purpose of providing money for the issue of the above-mentioned sum of £4,775,000 out of the Consolidated Fund or the repayment to that fund of all or any part of the sum so issued." —(*Secretary to the Treasury*) ... ... ... ... ... ... 237

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"That a sum, not exceeding £26,991, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Officers of the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant in Dublin and London, and Subordinate Departments."—agreed to ... 241

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**Land Law (Ireland) Bill**:—Considered in Committee. [Progress, 20th July] ... 292

Clause 7,—(Lettings by persons not absolute owners) ... ... ... 292

Another Amendment proposed (20th July) at the end of the clause, to add the words—

"(2) This section shall not apply to a tenancy in a holding which at the date of the letting was demesne land—where the application of the Land Law Acts to the tenancy would materially diminish the value as a residence of the mansion house situate on and theretofore occupied with the demesne."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*) ... ... ... ... ... ... 293

Amendment proposed, to leave out from the proposed Amendment the words—

"where the application of the Land Law Acts to the tenancy would materially diminish the value as a residence of the mansion house situate on and theretofore occupied with the demesne."—(*Colonel Saunderson*) ... ... ... 293

Question proposed, "That the word 'where' stand part of the proposed Amendment." ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 293

Question put.—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 310; Noes, 46.—(Division List, No. 341) ... ... ... ... ... ... 295

Further Amendment proposed, to insert in the proposed Amendment after the word "where" the words "the mansion house is let with such demesne land or."—(*Mr. Carson*) ... ... ... 295

Amendment to the proposed Amendment agreed to ... ... ... 297

Further Amendment proposed, to insert in the proposed Amendment, after the word "would," the words "injuriously affect the rights of the remainderman, or."—(*Mr. Carson*) ... ... ... ... 297

Amendment to the proposed Amendment negatived ... ... .. 297

Further Amendment proposed to leave out of the proposed Amendment "diminish the value," and insert "interfere with the enjoyment."—(*Mr. Carson*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 297

Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 298

Further Amendment proposed, to add to the words last inserted in the proposed Amendment, "and the Court is satisfied that the mansion house is *bonâ fide* required as a residence for the remainderman."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*) ... ... ... ... 298

Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 299

Further Amendment proposed to add at the end of the proposed Amendment:—

"Provided that no decision that this section applies to any demesne land, made in the absence of the person entitled on such cesser as aforesaid, shall be binding on him, and that he shall be entitled within the prescribed time after such cesser and notice of the Order containing such decision to apply to the Court to rescind such Order."—(*Mr. H. Robertson*) ... ... ... ... 299

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Further Amendment proposed, to add to the proposed Amendment, after the words last inserted :—

"Provided always that when the landlord is a limited owner, or mortgagor, or mortgagee in possession, no order shall be made without notice to the person entitled on such cesser."—(*Mr. Carson*) ... ... ... ... ... 301

Amendment agreed to, with the addition of the words :—

"No order to fix a fair rent for the first time shall be made without the Land Commission giving the prescribed notice" .... ... ... ... 309

Original Amendment, as amended, agreed to ... ... ... ... 309

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "accordingly," at the end of the clause to add :—

"Provided always, that when the landlord is a limited owner or mortgagor or mortgagee in possession, no order shall be made without notice to the person entitled on such cesser."—(*Mr. Carson*) ... ... ... ... ... 309

Amendment agreed to; Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 310

Clause 8,—(Tenancy not invalidated by reason of subletting by landlord) —ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... 310

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Amendment proposed at the end of Sub-section (1), after the word "interest," to insert the words—

"as if a degree or a writ of *habeas facias possessionem* had been executed."—(*Mr. Carson*)—agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 311

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), to omit the words "where the non-payment was not due to the non-payment of rent by the tenant of the holding," and to insert instead thereof the words :—

"The payment by the tenant of the holding of the amount due to the landlord under such judgment shall not operate to redeem the interest of the immediate landlord, and upon such payment, but subject to such right of redemption as aforesaid."—(*Mr Carson*)... ... ... ... ... 311

Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 317

Amendment proposed to omit the words—

"except in the case of fraud or collusion, or of letting at a gross undervalue."—(*Mr. Serjeant Hemphill*) ... ... ... ... ... 317

Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 318

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Clause 11,—(Amendment of 50 and 51 Vict. c. 33 s. 1, as to time for application by leaseholders)—ordered to stand part of the Bill ... 319

Clause 12,—(Ejectments for non-payment of rent in case of Holdings under Land Law Acts) ... ... ... ... .. ... 319

Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "where an," and to insert instead thereof the words, "in the case of any" ... ... ... 319

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 320

Amendment proposed, in the same line, to leave out the word "is."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 320

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Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "and" before the words "the rent in arrear," and to insert instead thereof the word "where."—*Mr. Maurice Healy)*—Agreed to ... ... ... 320

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out all the words after the words "the sum claimed."—*(Mr. Jordan)* ... ... ... ... 320

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 321

Further Amendment proposed, to relieve the tenant in arrear from all liability on payment of two years' rent.—*(Mr. Hayden)* ... ... 321

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 329

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words "shall remain a debt due by the tenant to the landlord, but.".—*(Mr. Maurice Healy)* —Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 329

Further Amendment proposed, to add to the clause—

"nor shall the holding be sold or affected by or under any judgment, execution, or proceeding taken in respect of such balance of rent."—*(Mr. Maurice Healy)*—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... 329

Clause 12, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 329

Clause 13,—(Amendment of Procedure for fixing Judicial Rent and for re-hearing).—Under the Order of the House of this date, Clause 13 ceased to be part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... ... 329

Clause 14,—(Fixing of Fair Rent for thirty years variable with reference to variation of prices).—Under the Order of the House of this date, Clause 14 ceased to be part of the Bill ... ... 331

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Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 336

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the words "High Court," to leave out the word "and."—*(Mr. Serjeant Hemphill)* ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 337

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 338

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out Sub-section (*a*) ... ... 338

Question put.—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 153; Noes, 79.—(Division List, No. 342) ... ... ... ... ... ... 350

Further Amendment proposed, to omit Sub-section (*b*).—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 350

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 351

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause, to insert the following Sub-section :—

"Such rules which apply to the Court of the Land Commission in Dublin shall be held at the Four Courts in Dublin and not elsewhere."—*(Mr. T. M. Healy)*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 351

Further Amendment proposed, to omit Clause 17.—(*Mr. Michael Davitt*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 351

Amendment negatived; clause ordered to stand part of the Bill ... 352

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Clause 18,—(Power to nominate Judge to act as Additional Land Judge for certain purposes)—ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 352

Clause 19,—(Alteration of mode of calculating Purchase Annuity) ... 352

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the word "advance," to insert the words "under the Land Purchase Acts."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 353

Further Amendment offered, in Sub-section (1), after "payable" to insert the words "at the rate of £3 10s. per cent."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 353

Amendment ruled out of order ... ... ... ... ... ... 355

Further Amendment offered, to add at the end of the clause :—

"Provided that the purchase annuities of tenants who have acquired or who may acquire their holdings under the Land Purchase Acts, shall be subject to revision in like manner as rents now are under the revision clauses of the Land Acts of 1881 and 1887."—(*Mr. Finch Hatton*) ... ... ... 355

Amendment ruled out of order ... ... ... ... ... ... 355

Further Amendment proposed, to add at the end of the clause :—

"and the provisions of this section shall apply in the cases of simple mortgages under section twenty-three of the Purchase Act of 1885, power being hereby given to the Land Commission to convert any such mortgages into instalment mortgages on the application of the persons liable, provided they agree to pay the same rate of interest on their mortgages as is payable by purchasers under this Act."—(*Sir T. Esmonde*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... 356

Further Amendment proposed, to insert in Sub-section (4), after the word "them," the words "for registration."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 356

Further Amendment proposed, to give the tenant the reduction of the annuity in the current decade dating from "and including" the gale day next after the commencement of the Act.—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 356

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 357

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Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add the words "and the Acts amending the same."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*)—Agreed to 361

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Clause 23,—(As to Guarantee Deposit) ... ... ... ... ... 362

Amendment proposed, after the word "advance," to insert the words, "the Land Purchase Act."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*)—Withdrawn ... 362

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Clause 24—(Advance by Means of Money in place of Stock) ... ... 365

Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*a*) to leave out the words "money and not of."—(*Sir T. Esmonde*) ... ... ... ... ... 366

Question put, "That the words 'money and not of' stand part of the clause."—Ayes, 86; Noes, 99.—Division List (appended).—No. 343. 376

Clause 24 negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 377

Clause 25—(Expediting Proceedings on Sales) ... ... ... ... 377

Words inserted at the end of sub-section (1):—

"Provided always that, where the Land Commission are satisfied that the landlord has a good and marketable title to the holding, they shall not be required to consider whether the purchase money is adequate in amount."—(*Attorney General for Ireland.*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 377

Further Amendment proposed, to omit Paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (3).—(*Mr. Maurice Healy.*) ... ... ... ... ... 381

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 387

Further Amendment proposed, to add to the sub-section, as a protection to the tenant, the words:—

"Provided that the separate consideration be specified in the agreement for purchase in respect of the said rights."—(*Mr. Shee*)—Negatived ... 387

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of Sub-section (4), to insert:—

"Provided always, that, until such distribution as aforesaid (but without prejudice to the rights of incumbrancers), interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum shall be paid by the Land Commission to the person who for the time being would, but for the sale thereof, have been entitled to the rent and profits of the lands in respect of which the said money has been paid into court."—(*Sir John Colomb*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 387

Amendment ruled out of order ... ... ... ... ... ... 388

Further Amendment proposed, to add the following new sub-section to the clause:—

"(9.) The Land Commission or the High Court shall not in any case be empowered to make any further requisition as to title than a purchaser would be entitled to make under the Vendor and Purchaser Act, 1874."—(*Mr Knox*) ... 388

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 389

Motion made, "That Clause 25 stand part of the Bill." ... ... ... 389

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... 391

Clause 26—(Framing of and Dispensing with Vesting Order and Registration of Title on Purchase.) ... ... ... ... 391

Amendment proposed, to leave out all the words after the words "registered pursuant to that Act" in sub-section (2).—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 392

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 394

Clause 26 ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... 394

Clause 27—(As to Redemption or Apportionment of Annuities, Rent-charges, etc., under 50 & 51 Vict. c. 33, ss. 15, 16.) ... ... 394

Amendment proposed, to insert at the end of the clause:—

"(5.) That the twentieth section of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, be retrospective, and apply to the reversion expectant on the termination of any lease."—(*Mr. Kilbride*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... 395

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Clause 28—(As to the Easements, etc., when Vesting Order is made)—Ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... 395

Clause 29—(Liability of Arrears of Rent, and Interest on Purchase Money after Agreement to Purchase) ... ... ... ... 395

Amendment proposed to leave out the word "make" and to insert instead thereof the words "have sanctioned."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*) 396

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 397

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "the landlord and the tenant," and to insert instead thereof the words "at such date."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 398

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the subsequent words from "if" to the end of the clause, and to insert instead thereof the words "from the following day prior to such refusal."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 398

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "four" and to insert the word "three."—(*Mr. Serjeant Hemphill*) ... ... 398

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 401

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words, "or if no rate is agreed on, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 401

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), after the words "purchase money from," to insert the words "the gale day preceding."—(*Sir J. Colomb*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... 401

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), after the words "advance is refused shall," to insert the words "unless the agreement otherwise provides."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*) ... ... ... 401

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Amendment proposed, to omit Sub-section (*b*).—(*Mr. J. P. Farrell*) ... 494
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Clause 40,—(Application to Land Commission for reinstatement of Tenant or for purchase of Holding) ... ... ... ... ... 494
Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to omit the word "between," and to insert instead thereof the word "from," so that the sub-section should read, "at any time from the first day of May." —(*Mr. James Roche*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 495
Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words "the sixth day of August one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one.")—*Mr. Roche*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... . . ... 495
Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the words "one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, and," to insert the words
"If the party so served does not within the prescribed time after such service object in the prescribed manner, a joint application within the meaning of the section shall be deemed to have been made for re-instatement or for a sale, as the case may be, and the Land Commission may thereupon proceed under this section accordingly."—(*Mr. Serjeant Hemphill*) ... ... 495
Words "in the prescribed manner" omitted from the proposed Amendment; Amendment, as thus altered, agreed to. Sub-heads (*a*) and Sub-section (*b*) 4 struck out. Clause 40, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 497

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New Clauses:—Clause 4,—(Amendment as to Improvements.—Application and construction of parts of Act) ... ... ... ... 500

Clause read 1° ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 501

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1) to omit the words "Where an application is made to."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*)—Agreed to 501

Further Amendment proposed to omit the word "fix," and to insert the word "fixes."—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 506

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1) to omit the words—

"which is not subject to the Ulster tenant-right custom or any usage corresponding thereto, or the tenant of which does not claim the benefit of any such custom or usage."—(*Colonel Waring*) ... ... ... ... ... 507

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 509

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1) after the word "record" to insert the words "in the form of a Schedule."—(*Sir J. Colomb*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 509

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 510

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out Paragraph (*a*), and to insert:—

"The several classes of land found on the holding, marking same on a map, and showing in respect of each such class the estimated area thereof, and the sum which should be the fair rent thereof (per acre or per class) on the assumption that all improvements thereon were made or acquired by the landlord."—(*Sir J. Colomb*)—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... 510

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (1), Sub-section (*c*), to leave out the words "the present capital value thereof," and to insert instead thereof the words "the increasing letting value due thereto."—(*Mr. Dillon*)... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 510

Amendment by leave withdrawn; words "and the increased letting value due thereto" inserted after the words "present capital value thereof" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 511

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words "proper to be" from Paragraph (iii) in Sub-section (1)—"The deduction from the rent proper to be made on account thereof."—(*Attorney General for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 511

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words "or compensated" from Paragraph (*d*)—"The extent (if any) to which the landlord has paid or compensated the tenant in respect of each such improvement."—(*Mr. McCartan*)—Negatived ... ... ... ... 512

Further Amendment proposed, in Paragraph (*g*), after the word "holding," to insert the words "due regard being had to the occupation interest of the tenant."—(*Mr. Dillon*) ... ... ... 512

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 514

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Further Amendment proposed, at the end of Sub-section (1), after the word "custody,' to insert :—

"For the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent, the word 'improvement' shall, notwithstanding anything in the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, be construed to mean any increased letting value due to or arising out of any expenditure of labour or capital on or in respect of the holding."—*(Mr Kilbride)* ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 514

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The Committee divided :—Ayes, 121 ; Noes, 180.—(Division List, No. 345) ... 535

Further Amendment proposed, to insert at the end of Sub-section (1) after the word "custody,"—

"Provided there shall not be taken into account, as part of the improvements made by the tenant, what is justly due to the inherent capabilities of the soil."—*(Mr. Smith-Barry)* ... ... ... ... ... ... 535

Amendment negatived ... ... ... .. ... ... ... 546

Further Amendment proposed, to omit Sub-section (3).—(*Mr. Daly*) ... 546

Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 548

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (4), to omit the word "valuable," and to insert instead thereof the word "adequate."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... 548

Further Amendment proposed, to omit from Sub-section (6) the words :—

"Provided that the rent may be allowed in respect of any improvement made by the tenant if made twenty years before the passing of the said Act, and not being a permanent building or reclamation of waste land."—*(Mr. Dillon)*—

Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 549

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (6), after the word "permanent," to insert the word "work."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*) —Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 549

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (7), to leave out all the words after the words "tenant of any improvement."—*Mr. Dillon* —Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 550

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the following words from Sub-section (7) :—

"And in the case of an improvement made in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration, such intention shall be implied where not expressed."—*(Mr. M. Healy)*—Negatived ... ... ... ... 551

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (7), to leave out the words "entered into for valuable consideration."—*Mr. Smith-Barry*—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 552

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (7), to leave out the word "intention" and to insert instead thereof the word "object."—(*Attorney General for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 553

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (8), after the words "sub-sections," to insert the word "one."—(*M. T. P. O'Connor*)... ... 553

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 558

Further Amendment proposed, to insert, as a proviso :—

"In the province of Ulster, a holding shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be subject to the Ulster tenant-right custom."—*(Mr. T. P. O'Connor)* ... 558

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The Committee divided :—Ayes, 66 ; Noes, 119.—(Division List, No. 346) ... 562

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New Clause,—(Landlord and Tenant Act, 1870.)—*(Attorney General for Ireland)* ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 563

Amendment made.—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)—Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... ... 563

New Clause,—(Provisions as to reinstatement of Evicted Tenants and Sale of Holding.)—(*Mr. Dillon*, for *Mr. Roche*)—Negatived ... 563

New Clause,—(Pre-emption Repeal.)—(*Mr. Harrington*)—Withdrawn ... 564

New Clause,—(Amendment of Section 57 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881.)—(*Mr. Clancy*, for *Mr. Hayden*) ... ... ... ... 566

Clause negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 568

New Clause,—(Future and present Tenancies.)—(*Mr. Serjeant Hemphill*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 568

New Clause,—(Fair Rent Applications.)—(*Mr. Morrison*)—Negatived ... 569

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New Clause,—(Glebe Purchase.)—(*Mr. Johnston*)—Withdrawn ... ... 570

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CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896-7:—

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Question put. "That Item I (School Grants) be reduced by £50."—*(Mr. Knox).*—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 105; Noes, 154.—(Division List, No. 347). Original Question put and agreed to ... 635

2. £605, to complete the sum for Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 649

3. £1,643, to complete the sum for National Gallery of Ireland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 649

4. £2,450, to complete the sum for Queen's Colleges, Ireland ... ... 650

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Class I.—5. £137,341, to complete the sum for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 662

£19,503, to complete the sum for Railways, Ireland—Agreed to ... 663

Class II.—7. £24,597, to complete the sum for Public Works Office, Ireland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 665

Class III.—8. £41,825, to complete the sum for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions, Ireland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 665

9. £75,656, to complete the sum for Supreme Court of Judicature and other Legal Departments in Ireland—Agreed to ... ... ... 665

10. £42,258, to complete the sum for Irish Land Commission—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... . . ... 667

11. £77,700, to complete the sum for County Court Officers, etc., Ireland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 667

12. £66,298, to complete the sum for Dublin Metropolitan Police—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 668

13. £70,642, to complete the sum for Prisons, Ireland—Agreed to ... 668

14. £57,479, to complete the sum for Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Ireland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 668

15. £3,841, to complete the sum for Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 668

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17. £8,774, to complete the sum for Hospitals and Charities, Ireland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 668

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**Official Secrets Bill**:—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading (26th June), further adjourned ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 668

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**London University Commission Bill** [H.L.]:—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived ... ... ... ... 673

**Collecting Societies Bill**:—Read 2a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 673

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GOLD COAST (NATIVE AND EUROPEAN DOCTORS)—Question, Mr. Farquharson; Answer, Secretary of State for the Colonies ... ... ... ... 694
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COVENT GARDEN THEATRICAL FUND—Question, Mr. Hogan; Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 695
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TOWN TENANTS (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 697
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NAVAL RESERVE VESSEL (KIRKWALL)—Question, Mr. Hedderwick; Answer, Secretary to the Admiralty ... ... ... ... ... ... 702
PASTOR KHAMIS—Question, Mr. J. Wilson (Govan); Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... ... 703
ULSTER LANDLORDS (FLAX GROWING DISTRICTS)—Question, Mr. McCartan; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... 703
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RHODESIA RISING—Questions, Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Mr. Radcliffe Cooke; Answers, Secretary of State for the Colonies ... ... ... 704
COLONIAL VOTE—Questions, Mr. Byron Reed and Sir E. Ashmead Bartlett; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... ... 704

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

**Uganda Railway Bill**:—Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a Second time" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 704
Amendment proposed to leave out from the word "That" to the end of the Question, in order to add instead thereof the words—
"this House is of opinion that no further public funds should be voted for making this railway until more clear and definite estimates of its cost are presented." *(Mr. Labouchere")* ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 705
*Sir C. Dilke* ... ... 709
*Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs* ... ... ... 710
*Sir W. Harcourt* ... ... 716
*Mr. Burdett-Coutts* ... ... 720
*Mr. Gibson Bowles* ... ... 723
Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."—The House divided:—Ayes, 239; Noes, 86.—(Division List, No. 348) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 724
Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a Second time, and committed for To-morrow ... .. ... ... ... ... 724
**Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill**:—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 724
Amendment made in Title of Bill.—(*Sir C. Dilke*) ... ... ... 725

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Clause 1,—(Registration and powers of Conciliation Boards). Amendment made.—(*Mr. Ascroft*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 725

Clause 2,—(Powers of Board of Trade as to Trade Disputes) ... ... 726

Amendment proposed, in Sub section (1), after the words "different classes of workmen," to insert the words "or between different classes of employers" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 727

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The House divided :—Ayes, 123 ; Noes, 203.—(Division List, No. 349) ... 731

Further Amendment proposed, after Sub-section (3) to insert the following Sub-section :—

"(4.) The Arbitration Act 1889, shall not apply to the settlement by arbitration of any difference or dispute to which this Act applies, but any such arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with such of the provisions of the said Act, or such of the regulations of any conciliation board, or under such other rules or regulations, as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties to the difference or dispute."—*(Sir Albert Rollit)* ... ... 731

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 733

Clause 3,—(Power for Board of Trade to aid in Establishment of Conciliation Boards).—Amendment made.—(*Mr. Ascroft.*) Bill read the Third time, and passed ... ... ... ... ... ... 733

**Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill** :—As amended by the Standing Committee, considered ... ... ... ... ... ... 734

New clause proposed,—(Substitution of Clause for Sub-section (1) of Section 47 of Principal Act).—*(Mr. David Thomas.)*—Withdrawn 734

Clause 2,—(Representation of Workmen on Arbitration).—Amendment proposed, to omit the words—

"on giving such security, if any, as may appear to the arbitrators or umpire sufficient to provide for the costs."—(*Mr. W. Abraham*) ... ... ... 735

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."—The House divided :—Ayes, 150 ; Noes, 87.—(Division List, No. 350) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 744

Further Amendment proposed, to insert, after the word "costs," the following words, "occasioned by such representation."—(*The Attorney General*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 744

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 746

Further Amendment proposed, after the words last inserted, to add the words "not exceeding the sum of twenty pounds."—(*Mr. Pritchard Morgan*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 746

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The House divided :—Ayes, 91 ; Noes, 171.—(Division List, No. 351) ... 748

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words—

"to such extent and in such manner as the arbitrators or umpire may direct."—(*Mr. Samuel Evans*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 748

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 752

Clause 5,—(Amendment of General Rules as to Lamps, Inspection, and Tamping).—Amendment made.—(*Mr. Fenwick*) ... ... ... 754

Clause 6,—(Provision as to Explosives).—Amendment proposed, after the word "conditions," to insert the following words :—

"and where it appears to any inspector appointed under the Public Act that further precautions are necessary for the safety of the mine by reason of its being dry and dusty, a Secretary of State may make regulations with regard to the watering or damping of the mine, or any ways or places therein."—*(Mr. McKenna)* ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 754

Amendment withdrawn. Bill read the Third time, and passed ... 766

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**Truck Bill** :—As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered ... ... ... 766

New clause proposed,—(Power to exempt from Provisions of Act).—(*Home Secretary*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 767

Clause read 1° and 2°, and ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 770

New clause proposed,—(Application of 51 and 52 Vict. c. 46, to Outworkers).—(*Mr. Harold Tennant*) ... ... ... ... ... 771

Clause read 1° and 2°, and ordered to stand part of the Bill in amended form, with marginal note ("Duties of Inspectors") ... 771

Clause 1,—(Deductions or Payments in respect of Fines).—Amendment made.—(*Home Secretary*) ... ... ... ... ... ... 771

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out Sub-section (*a*).—(*Mr. George Harwood*).—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... 773

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the following words from Sub-section (*a*) :—

"contract is embodied in a printed notice affixed at the pit head or at the entrance of a factory or workshop, and in such parts of a mine, factory, or workshop as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines or Factories may direct or approve, and constantly kept so affixed in such a position that it can be easily read by the persons employed in the mine, factory, or workshop,"

and to insert instead thereof the words—

"terms of the contract are contained in a printed notice kept constantly affixed at such place or places open to workmen, and in such a position that it may be easily seen, read, and copied by any person whom it affects."—(*Home Secretary*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 773

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The House divided :—Ayes, 129 ; Noes, 60.—(Division List, No. 352) ... 779

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (*c*), to leave out the words "which causes or is likely to cause," and to insert instead thereof the words "which has caused."—(*Mr. Harwood*).—Withdrawn ... 779

Clause 2,—(Deductions of Payments in respect of Damaged Goods).—Amendment made.—(*Home Secretary*) ... ... ... ... 779

Debate adjourned till To-morrow ... ... ... ... ... ... 781

**Telegraph Money Bill** :—Second Reading deferred .. ... ... ... 781

**Finance Bill** :—Third Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... ... 781

SUPPLY [24th JULY] :—Resolutions reported ... ... ... ... ... 781

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1896–7 ... ... 781

Class IV.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £616,077 (including a Supplementary sum of £3,375), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland" ... ... ... ... ... 781
2. "That a sum, not exceeding £605, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners for managing certain School Endowments in Ireland" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 781
3. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,643, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Gallery of Ireland" ... ... ... ... 781
4. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,450, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for a Grant in aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland" ... ... ... 781

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Class I.

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £137,341, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Erection, Repairs, and Maintenance of Public Buildings in Ireland, for the Maintenance of certain Parks and Public Works, and for Drainage Works on the River Shannon" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 781

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £19,503, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for Payments under 'The Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act, 1883,' and the Light Railways (Ireland) Acts, 1889 and 1893" ... ... ... ... 782

Class II.

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £24,597, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Public Works in Ireland" ... ... ... 782

Class III.

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £41,825, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland" ... ... ... ... 782

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £75,656, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature and of certain other Legal Departments in Ireland as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 782

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £42,258, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Irish Land Commission" ... ... ... 782

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £77,700, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries, Allowances, Expenses, and Pensions of various County Court Officers, of Divisional Commissioners, and of Magistrates in Ireland, and the Expenses of Revision" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 782

12. "That a sum, not exceeding £66,298, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Commissioner of Police, the Police Courts, and the Metropolitan Police Establishment of Dublin" ... ... ... ... 782

13. "That a sum, not exceeding £70,642, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Expenses of the General Prisons Board in Ireland, and of the Prisons under their control, and of the Registration of Habitual Criminals" ... ... ... ... 782

14. "That a sum, not exceeding £57,479, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Expenses of Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Ireland" ... ... ... ... 783

15. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,841, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics in the Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland" ... 783

Class VI.

16. "That a sum, not exceeding £11,372, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for a Grant in Aid of the Local Cost of Maintenance of Pauper Lunatics in Ireland" ... ... 783

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17. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,774, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for Hospitals and Infirmaries, and certain Miscellaneous, Charitable, and other Allowances in Ireland" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 783

Resolutions read a Second time; First Resolution postponed; Resolutions Two to Six agreed to; Resolutions Seven and Eight postponed; Resolution Nine agreed to; Resolution Ten postponed; Subsequent Resolutions agreed to; Postponed Resolutions to be considered To-morrow... ... ... ... ... ... ... 783

**Bishopric of Bristol Act Amendment Bill** [H.L.]:—Read a Second time, and committed for To-morrow ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 783

**Agricultural Rates, Congested Districts' and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Bill**:—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 783

**West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill**:—Committee deferred ... ... 784

**Stannaries Bill** [H.L.].—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... 784

LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS [EXCISE DUTY]:—Considered in Committee:—

Resolved—

"That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an additional excise duty on every light locomotive which is liable to duty, either as a carriage or as a hackney carriage, under section four of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1888, at the following rates:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds one ton unladen, but does not exceed two tons unladen ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds two tons unladen ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |

such excise duty to be paid annually; and the proceeds of such duty to be paid into the Local Taxation Accounts."—*(Chancellor of the Exchequer.)* ... 784

Resolution to be reported To-morrow ... ... ... ... ... 785

**Locomotives on Highways Bill** [H.L.]:—Consideration, as amended by the Standing Committeee, deferred ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 785

**Light Railways Bill**:—Third Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 785

**Military Manœuvres Bill**:—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... 785

**Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill**:—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [15th May] further adjourned ... ... ... ... ... 785

MILITARY WORKS [MONEY]:—Committee thereupon deferred ... ... 786

**Naval Reserve Bill**:—Considered in Committee; Bill reported without Amendment; read 3°, and passed ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 786

**Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill** [H.L.]:—After short Debate, Read 2°, and committed for Thursday ... ... ... ... ... ... 787

**Railways (Ireland) Bill**:—Read 3°, and passed ... ... ... ... ... 788

SUPPLY:—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 788

WAYS AND MEANS:—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 788

**Official Secrets Bill**:—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] further adjourned ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 788

**Larceny Bill** [H.L.]:—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 788

**Burglary Bill** [H.L.]:—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 788

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS:—Bill read 1°.—[No. 327.] ... ... ... ... 788

## LORDS: TUESDAY, 28TH JULY 1896.

### *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

**Londonderry Improvement Bill**:—Reported without Amendment ... ... 789

**Abensur's Naturalisation Bill** [H.L.]:—Returned from the Commons agreed to ... 789

PRIVATE BILLS:—Motion made, to amend Standing Orders—(*Chairman of Committees*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 789

Motion agreed to.—[No. 225.] ... ... ... ... ... ... 796

**Provisional Order Bills**:—On the Motion for the Second Reading of the Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill ... ... 796

Amendment proposed, that the Bill be read a Second time that day three months.—(*Lord Stanley of Alderley*.) ... ... ... ... 796

*Lord Harris* ... ... 799 *Chairman of Committees* ... 802
*Lord Privy Seal* ... 802 *Lord Stanley of Alderley* ... 803

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**Collecting Societies Bill**:—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 804

**Friendly Societies Bill**:—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 804

**Working Men's Dwellings Bill** [H.L.]:—Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments.—[No. 218] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 804

**Judicial Trustees Bill**:—Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments.—[No. 219] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 804

**Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill**:—Brought from the Commons; read $1^a$—(*Lord Belper*).—[No. 220.] ... ... ... ... 804

**Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill**:—Brought from the Commons, and read $1^a$.—[No. 221] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 805

**Naval Reserve Bill**:—Brought from the Commons, and read $1^a$.—[No. 222] ... ... 805

**Railways (Ireland) Bill**:—Brought from the Commons; Read $1^a$—(*Earl of Ranfurly*).—[No. 223] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 805

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**Land Law (Ireland) Bill**:—As amended, considered ... ... ... ... 832

New clause proposed, after Clause 12, new clause,—(Amendment as to Mortgage or Settlement of Holdings).—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*) 832

Clause read 1° and 2°; Amendment made; clause added ... ... 833

New clause proposed,—(Investments of Gurantee Deposits)—(*Mr. Knox*) 834

Clause withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 835

New clause proposed,—(Amendment of 50 and 51 Vic., c. 33, s. 19)—(*Mr. M. Healy*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 835

Clause withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 836

New clause proposed,—(Amendment of 51 and 52 Vic., c. 49, s. 2)—(*Mr. M. Healy*). Clause read 1° and 2°; Amendment made; clause added 836

New clause proposed—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Negatived ... ... ... 837

New clause proposed,—(Pre-emption by Landlord).—(*M. T. M. Healy*) Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 838

New clause proposed,—(Town Parks).—(*M. T. M. Healy*) ... ... 838

Clause negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 840

New clause proposed,—(Reservations as to Mines, Fishery, and Sporting Rights to the State).—(*Sir John Colomb*) ... ... ... ... 840

Clause negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 843

New clause proposed,—(Tenure in Severalty).—(*Mr. J. J. Clancy*) ... 843

Clause read 1° and 2°; Amendment made; clause added ... ... 844

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New clause proposed,—(Judicial rent may be fixed where contract provides for resumption of Holding by the Landlord).—(*General Hugh McCalmont*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 844

Clause read 1° and 2°; Amendment made; clause added ... ... 845

New clause proposed,—(Shortening Judicial Term)—(*Mr. Dillon*) ... 845

After Debate, Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause be read a Second time."—The House divided:—Ayes, 101; Noes, 172.—(Division List, No. 353) ... ... ... ... ... ... 862

New clause proposed,—(Judicial term in cases of Agreements).—(*Mr. Dillon*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 862

Clause read 1° and 2°; Amendment made; clause added ... ... 867

New clause proposed,—(Certain reinstated Tenants to be present Tenants). —(*Mr. M. Healy*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 867

Clause negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 868

New clause proposed,—(Certain Tenancies to be present Tenancies).—(*Mr. M. Healy*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 868

Clause negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 869

New clause proposed,—(Repeal of 44 and 45 Vict., c. 49, s. 8, ss. 5).—(*Mr. M. Healy*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 869

Clause read 1° and 2°; Amendment made; clause added ... ... 870

New clause proposed,—(Present Tenancies).—(*Mr. Flynn*) ... ... 870

After short Debate, Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause be read a Second time."—The House divided:—Ayes, 97; Noes, 189. —(Division List, No. 354) ... ... ... ... ... ... 875

Clause ruled out of order, —(Advances to Tenants).—(*Sir T. Lea*) ... 875

Clause 1,—(Fair Rent—Amendment as to Improvements) ... ... 876

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the word "court"—("where the court")—to insert the words "if the applicant so demand at the hearing."—(*Mr. Knox*) ... ... ... ... 877

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 878

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the word "shall," to insert the words "if either the landlord or the tenant so requires." —(*Mr. Knox*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... 878

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the word "schedule," to insert the words "unless both landlord and tenant concur in asking that such a schedule shall not be filled up."—(*Mr. Knox*)—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 878

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*g*), Sub-section (1), after the word "and," to insert the words "a certified copy of the record shall be sent by post to each party, and."—(*Mr. Knox*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 878

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*g*), Sub-section (1), after the word "record," to insert the words "or a certified copy thereof." —(*Mr. Knox*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 878

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*g*), Sub-section (1), after the word "custody," to insert—

"For the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent the word 'improvement' shall, notwithstanding anything in the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, be construed to mean any increased letting value due to or arising out of any expenditure of labour or capital on or in respect of the holding."—(*Mr. Kilbride*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 879

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Question put, "That these words be there inserted."—The House divided :—Ayes, 102 ; Noes, 184.—(Division List, No. 355) ... 882

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words, "an application to fix a fair rent," and to insert instead thereof the words, "the Land Law Acts."—(*Mr. M. Healy*).—Agreed to ... ... ... 882

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words, "valuable consideration," and to insert instead thereof the words, "money, or money's worth."—(*Mr. Flynn*).—Negatived ... ... 882

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (6), to leave out the word "twenty," and to insert instead thereof the word "fifty."—(*Mr. Flynn*).—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 883

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (6), to leave out the word "waste."—(*Mr. Flynn*).—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... 883

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (7), to omit the word "fixed."—(*Mr. Flynn*).—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... 883

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (7), to leave out the words "allowed to remain unaltered," in order to insert the words, "reduced substantially."—(*Mr. Flynn*).—Negatived ... ... 884

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of Sub-section (7), to insert the words—

"unless it shall be proved to the Court that the tenant in fact received no consideration for making the improvement."—(*Mr. M. Healy*) ... ... 884

Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 886

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (8), after "1870," to insert the words "and, as regards buildings, Sub-section three of said section."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*).—Negatived ... ... ... ... 886

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), after the word "fix," to insert the words "or as fixed."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*).—Negatived 887

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), after the words "payable by him," to insert the words—

"unless the judicial rent exceeds fifty pounds a year, in which case the difference may be deducted from any rent subsequently payable by him."—*Chief Secretary for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 889

Clause 3,—(Exclusion of certain Holdings) ... ... ... ... ... 889

Amendment proposed in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), to omit the words "or to a letting of land, the main object of which is," leave out from "or" to "for" in line two, and to insert instead thereof the words "the main object of the letting of which was."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 890

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-paragraph (ii), Sub-section (1), after the word "demesne" to leave out the words "and which" and to insert the word "unless."—(*Sir John Colomb* on behalf of *Mr. Carson*).—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... 890

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), after the words "dairy farm" to insert the words "or a holding which was laid down in permanent pasture by the tenant at his own expense."—(*Mr. M. Healy*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 891

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-paragraph (1), Paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "one hundred," and to insert instead thereof the word "fifty."—*Mr. Smith-Barry*).—Negatived 892

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Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-paragraph (i), paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "or upwards."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 893

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-paragraph (iii), paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), after the word "holding" to add—

"In the construction of the 9th Section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, the word 'agriculture' shall be construed to mean agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*).—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 893

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), after the words "a separate holding and," to insert the words "unless the tenancy has expired."—(*Mr. M. Healy*).—Withdrawn; words "shall, unless the tenancy has expired," inserted ... ... ... ... ... 893

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), after the word "holding," to insert new sub-section.—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... 894

Clause 4,—

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "seventh," and to insert instead thereof the word "ninth."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... 894

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add "and the words 'city or town' in the Land Law Acts shall be deemed not to include a village."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*)—Withdrawn ... ... 894

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add:—

"and a holding shall be deemed to have been let and used as an ordinary agricultural farm within the meaning of the said section, unless the contrary is proved."—*(Mr. M. Healy)*—Negatived ... ... ... ... 894

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add:—

"and no holding to which the Ulster custom applies shall be deemed to be a town park within the meaning of that section."—*(Mr. Knox)*.—Negatived ... 895

Clause 5,—(Exclusion by Sub-letting of Holding) ... ... ... ... 895

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "an application to fix a fair rent," and to insert instead thereof the words "the Land Law Acts."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... 896

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "of the tenant," and to insert instead thereof the words "in which the tenant for the time being resides."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 896

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), after the word "person," to insert:—

"(unless it be shown that such sub-letting was made by the tenant for the purpose of making a profit by the sub-letting, or not solely for the due cultivation of his holding)."—*(Sir J. Colomb.)*—Negatived ... ... 896

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "this enactment," and to insert instead thereof:—

"(i.) For the purpose of the foregoing provisions of this Section, a breach of the contract of tenancy shall not be deemed to have taken place if the landlord waived such breach;

"(ii.) the foregoing provisions of this section."—*(Chief Secretary for Ireland)*.—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 897

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of Sub-section (1), to insert:—

"For the purposes of the fifty-seventh Section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, a portion of a holding sub-let shall be deemed to be sub-let with the landlord's consent if the consent of the landlord or his agent shall be proved thereto, though given in a manner other than that prescribed in the contract of tenancy."—*(Mr. M. Healy)*.—Negatived ... ... ... ... 897

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Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add :—

"The sub-letting of any such dwelling-house as is referred to in Sub-section 1 (*a*) of this Section during the continuance of a statutory term or after its expiration shall not be deemed to be a breach of any statutory condition, nor shall the second Section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, apply to any such sub-letting, whether made before or after the passing of this Act."—*(Mr. M. Healy).*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 898

Clause 6,—(Turbary and other Profits, Easements and Privileges) ... 899

Amendment proposed, to omit Clause 6.—(*Mr. Lecky*) ... ... 899

Question put, "That the words of Clause 6 to the word 'and,' in line 6, stand part of the Bill."—The House divided :—Ayes, 141 ; Noes, 34.—(Division List, No. 356)... ... ... ... ... ... 904

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add :—

"(2) Where a statutory term has commenced before the passing of this Act, or where no order under the foregoing section has been made, and the landlord during the currency of a statutory term takes proceedings to restrain the tenant from exercising the privileges in the preceding section mentioned, the tenant may apply to the Court in the prescribed manner, and thereupon the Court shall have the same powers as upon an application to fix a fair rent, and the proceedings commenced by the landlord may be stayed pending the decision upon the application under this section."—*(Mr. T. M. Healy).*—Negatived 904

Clause 7,—(Lettings by persons not absolute Owners) ... ... ... 905

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1) to leave out the words "Where no fine or premium was received." It was necessary to omit these words in order to insert the words lower down on the Paper, namely :—

"Provided that where a fine or premium was received, it shall be lawful for the Court to dismiss the tenant's application if the justice of the case so requires." —*(Mr. T. M. Healy).*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 905

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of Sub-section (1) to add :—

"Provided that the Land Commission, before fixing the fair rent for the first time in respect of a tenancy to which this section applies, shall give the prescribed notice to the said person entitled on such cessor, or to some person appointed by the Land Commission to represent his interest."—*(Chief Secretary for Ireland).*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 905

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of Sub-section (1) to insert :—

"Provided that, if the tenant so elects, this section shall apply in cases where a fine or premium was received, if the tenant is willing that such fine or premium shall not be taken into consideration in fixing the fair rent."—*(Mr. M. Healy).*—Agreed to .. ... ... ... ... ... 906

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), after the word "tenancy" to insert the words "created by a limited owner."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 906

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the following words :—

"Provided always, that when the landlord is a limited owner or mortgagor or mortgagee in possession, no order to fix a fair rent for the first time shall be made without the Land Commission giving the prescribed notice to the person entitled on such cesser."—*(Chief Secretary for Ireland).*—Agreed to ... 906

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2) to leave out the words "to fix," and to insert the word "fixing."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 906

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add :—

"But the failure or neglect of the Land Commission to give such notice shall not affect the validity of the Order."—*(Mr. M. Healy).*—Agreed to ... ... 906

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Clause 9,—(Determination of Estate of Immediate Landlord) ... ... 906

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the word "Where," and to insert the words, "Unless the Court before which the ejectment was brought certifies that."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 907

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the word "not," so that the clause should read, "Unless the Court before which the ejectment was brought certifies that the non-payment was due."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 907

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), after the words "tenant to the immediate landlord," to insert the words "as if it had always been due to the superior landlord."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 907

Clause 12,—(Ejectments for non-payment of Rent in case of Holdings under Land Law Acts) ... ... ... ... ... ... 907

Amendment proposed, to insert in line 13, after the word "ejectment," "which shall be or has been."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... 908

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "claimed," and to insert instead thereof the words "due for rent up to the gale day preceding such tender, payment, deposit, or lodgment."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 908

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add :—

"nor shall the holding be sold or affected by or under any judgment, execution, or proceeding taken in respect of such balance of rent."—(*Mr. M. Healy*).—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 908

Clause 13,—(Procedure.—Amendments of Procedure as to Limited Representation of Deceased Person) ... ... ... ... ... 910

Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "subject to the prescribed regulations."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 910

Further Amendment proposed, to add at the end of the clause :—

"It is hereby declared that the Court had power, at any time since the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, to make such an Order as in this section is mentioned."—(*Mr. M. Healy*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 911

Clause 14,—(Ground of Appeal to be stated) ... ... ... ... 911

Amendment proposed, to omit Clause 14.—(*Mr. Smith-Barry*)—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 911

Further Amendment proposed, to insert after the word "Act," "1881."—(*Attorney General for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... ... ... 911

Further Amendment proposed, to insert, after the word "appeal," the words "under the Land Law Acts."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Agreed to 911

Further Amendment proposed, to insert, after the word "shall," the words "save by leave of the Court."—(*Attorney General for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 912

Further Amendment proposed, to insert, after the Attorney General's Amendment, the words "but shall be granted only on special grounds."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 912

Clause 15,—(Land Commission and Land Judge.—Regulations as to Interchange of Duties of the Land Judge and the Judicial Commissioner of the Irish Land Commission) ... ... ... ... ... 912

Amendment proposed, to omit paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1).—(*Mr. Dillon*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 914

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Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "shall be holden at the Four Courts, Dublin, and not elsewhere," and to insert :—

"When hearing appeals, or rehearing cases, or hearing such other matters as may be prescribed shall be held at the Four Courts, Dublin."—*(Chief Secretary for Ireland)*.—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 915

Clause 16,—(Power to Nominate Judge to Act as additional Land Judge for certain purposes) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 915

Amendment proposed, after the word "may," to insert the words "while no vacancy in the judiciary exists."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 916

Clause 17,—(Land Purchase.—Alteration of mode of calculating Purchase Annuity) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 916

Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (5), after the word "from," to insert the words "and including."—(*Mr. M. Healy*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 917

Clause 18,—(Application of part of Act to Annuities under 32 & 33 Vict. c. 42) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 917

Amendment proposed, to insert at the beginning of the clause :—

"The Land Commission, upon the application of any person liable to pay interest on any simple mortgage under Section fifty-two of the Irish Church Act, 1869, may, if they think fit, by order convert that mortgage into a mortgage to secure repayment of the principal of the mortgage debt then outstanding, with interest at the rate of three and one-eighth per centum per annum, by means of an annuity at the rate of four per centum per annum on the said principal, payable by half-yearly payments on the days fixed for the payment of the interest on the said mortgage, until the whole principal has been repaid, and such order shall be binding upon all persons interested, whether in the equity of redemption of such mortgages or otherwise."—*(Chief Secretary for Ireland)*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 918

Clause 20,—(Abolition of Purchaser's Insurance Money) ... ... ... 918

Amendment proposed, after the word "holding," to insert the words :—

"and also in the case of any instalment of a purchase annuity which shall become payable after the passing of this Act."—*(Mr. M. Healy)*—Agreed to 918

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add :—

"In the case of a purchase annuity payable at the date of the commencement of this Act, the amount of the purchase annuity as from the date of such commencement shall be certified by the Land Commission, and sent by them for registration to the registration authority under The Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891."—*(Mr. M. Healy)*—Agreed to ... ... 919

Clause 21,—(As to Guarantee Deposit) ... ... ... ... ... 919

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words :—

"pay out of the guarantee deposit to the person entitled thereto a sum equal to the portion of the advance which at the end of any decade is ascertained under the provisions of this Act to have been repaid,"

and to insert instead thereof—

"if they think fit on application at any time after the end of the first decade of the purchase annuity, pay to the persons entitled thereto the whole or any part of the guarantee deposit, except in a case where any part of the deposit has been actually applied in pursuance of the Land Purchase Acts."—*(Mr. M. Healy)*—Withdrawn... ... ... ... ... ... 919

Clause 22,—(Expediting Proceedings on Sales) ... ... ... ... 920

Amendment proposed, to omit Clause 22.—(*Mr. V. Cavendish*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 922

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the words "satisfied that," to insert the words "the person purporting to be."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... ... ... .. 923

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Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the words "title to," to insert the words "his interests in."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 923

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (3), to leave out the words "as to mines, timber and fishery, or other rights."—(*Mr. M. Healy*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 923

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (3), after the word "rights," to insert—

"in any case in which the Land Commission is satisfied in the prescribed manner that the effect of such reservation was explained to and understood by the purchaser, or the purchaser is represented by a solicitor other than the vendor's solicitor."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 923

Further Amendment proposed, to add at the end of the clause:—

(9.) "The Land Commission or the High Court shall not in any case be empowered to make any further requisitions as to title than a purchaser would be entitled to make under the Vendor and Purchaser Act, 1874, or any Act amending the same."—(*Mr. Knox*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 924

Further Amendment proposed, after the Amendment last inserted, to add:—

"The provisions of this section and of any other enactment in this Act with respect to purchase money and the payment thereof into court or otherwise shall, where the advance is made by means of guaranteed land stock, apply to that stock and to transfer thereof into court or otherwise, and enactments relating to the payment shall be construed accordingly."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 924

Clause 24,—(As to redemption or appointment of annuities, rent charges, etc., under 50 & 51 Vict. c. 33., ss. 15, 16.) ... ... ... 924

Amendment proposed, to add at the end of the clause the following new Sub-section:—

(5.) "That the twentieth section of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, be retrospective and apply to the reversion expectant on the termination of any lease."—(*Mr. Kilbride*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... 925

Clause 26,—(Liability for arrears of rent, and interest on purchase money after agreement to purchase) ... ... ... ... ... ... 925

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "sanctioned" and insert instead thereof the word "made."—(*Sir J. Colomb.*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... 925

Further Amendment proposed, to insert after the words "for such purchase," the words, "such sanction shall be signified by an Order and."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 925

Clause 26,—(Liability for arrears of rent, and interest on purchase money after agreement to purchase) ... ... ... ... 926

Amendment proposed, to restore words of original clause, "as if the agreement had not been made.—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland.*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 927

Clause 29,—(Sale of Holding by Land Commission) ... ... ... 927

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words—

"a portion of any such holding is required for any of the purposes mentioned in Section 5 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act 1881, for which a holding may be resumed,"

in order to insert thereof the words—

"in the exercise of their powers under the Land Purchase Acts authorise the sub-division of the holding."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... 928

Clause 31,—(Sales under the Landed Estates Court Act) ... ... 928

Amendment proposed, to omit Clause 31.—(*Sir R. Penrose-Fitzgerald*).—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 930

Clause 32,—(Appeals under Land Purchase Act) ... ... ... ...

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "a,"—("a Judicial Commissioner")—and to insert instead thereof the word "the."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... 931

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "Commissioners," to insert the words,—

"One of whom shall be a Commissioner appointed under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1885, except where, owing to absence, illness, or a vacancy in office, such a Commissioner is not available."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 931

Further Amendment proposed, to transpose Clauses 39 and 40 after Clause 12.—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland.*)—Agreed to ... ... 931

Clause 39,—(Provision for Agreements by landlords and tenants in certain cases) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 931

Amendment proposed, in Paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), after the word "holding" to insert the words "the partition of division of the holding."—(*Mr. M. Healy.*)—Agreed to ... ... ... 931

Clause 41,—(Supplemental definitions) ... ... ... ... ... 932

Amendment proposed, to insert in the fifth paragraph of Sub-section (1), after the words "except Part II., and," to insert—

"The Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1888, and the Timber (Ireland) Act, 1888, and the Land Law (Ireland) Act 1888 Amendment Act, 1889, and."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 933

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the words—

"The expression 'Land Purchase Acts' means the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, the Land Purchase Acts as therein defined, and the Redemption of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1891,"

to insert—

"The expression 'permanent building,' shall include embankments, structures, excavations, deepening of rivers or watercourses or other works effected for agricultural purposes and having a permanent character."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 933

Further Amendment proposed, to insert instead thereof—

"The expression 'permanent building' shall include river and sea embankments, having a permanent character."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*)—Agreed to 934

Clause 42,—(Saving of Ulster tenant-right custom)

"Nothing herein contained shall prejudice or affect any right, benefit, or presumption exercised or enjoyed under or by virtue of the Ulster tenant-right custom or any usage corresponding thereto" ... ... ... ... ... 934

Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to insert the words—

"In the province of Ulster a holding shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be subject to the Ulster tenant-right custom."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)—Negatived 934

Clause 43,—(Application and construction of parts of Act) ... ... 935

Amendment proposed, at the end of Sub-section (2) to insert,—

"and where such application can be so sustained, the holding shall be deemed to be and to have remained a present tenancy as from the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*) ... ... ... 936

Amendment agreed to; Schedule agreed to; Bill to be Read the Third time To-morrow (Wednesday) ... ... ... ... ... 936

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## LORDS: WEDNESDAY, 29TH JULY 1896.

**Land Law (Ireland) Bill** :—Brought from the Commons; Read $1^a$; to be printed; and to be read $2^a$ on Friday next.—[No. 226] ... ... ... ... ... 937

## COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 29TH JULY 1896.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896 (ORDERS) :—Paper—[No. 319.] ... ... 937

**Liquor Traffic Local Veto Bill** :—Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 12th August 937

**District Councils (Water Supply-Facilities) Bill** :—Order for Second Reading, this day, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... 937

**Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland) Bill** :—Order for Second Reading, this day, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... 937

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

**Land Law (Ireland) Bill** :- Order for Third Reading read ... ... ...

Motion made, "That the Bill be now read the Third time."—(*Chief Secretary for Ireland*)... ... ... ... ... ... ... 938

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months."—(*Mr. Smith-Barry*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 938

*Colonel Saunderson* ... 940
*Mr. J. Redmond* ... 947
*Mr. Rentoul* ... ... 948
*Mr. Dillon* ... ... 951
*Sir J. Colomb*... ... 954
*Mr. Davitt* ... ... 956
*Mr. Arnold-Forster* ... ... 959
*First Lord of the Treasury* ... 964
*Sir William Harcourt* ... ... 969
*Secretary, Local Government Board* 975
*Mr. T. M. Healy* ... ... 978

Question, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question," put and agreed to. Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read the Third time; verbal Amendments made. Bill passed ... ... 980

**Finance Bill** :—Motion made, "That this Bill be read the Third time" ... ... 980

*Mr. Gibson Bowles* ... 980
*Mr. Herbert Lewis* ... 981
*Colonel Milward* ... 984
*Mr. Lough* ... ... ... 985
*Chancellor of the Exchequer* ... 985
*Mr. Maurice Healy* ... ... 986

Bill read the Third time, and passed ... ... ... ... ... 986

**Truck Bill** :—Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [27th July] on Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), further adjourned ... ... 986

LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS [EXCISE DUTY] :—Resolution reported,—

"That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an additional excise duty on every light locomotive which is liable to duty, either as a carriage or as a hackney carriage, under Section four of The Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1888, at the following rate :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds one ton unladen, but does not exceed two tons unladen ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds two tons unladen | 3 | 3 | 0 |

such excise duty to be paid annually; and the proceeds of such duty to be paid into the Local Taxation Account ... ... ... ... ... 986

Resolution agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 986

**Locomotives on Highways Bill** :—Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 986

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**Uganda Railway Bill** :—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 987

**Telegraph Money Bill** :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... 987

SUPPLY :—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 987

WAYS AND MEANS :—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 987

SUPPLY [24th JULY] :—Report—Postponed Resolutions
Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1896–7

Class IV.—

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £616,077 (including a supplementary sum of £3,375), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the First Resolution." ... ... ... ... 987

Motion made, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—*(Mr. Murnaghan)* 989

Motion, by leave, withdrawn; Original Question put, and agreed to ... 990

Class II.—

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £24,597, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Public Works in Ireland" ... ... ... 990

Class III.—

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £41,825, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland" ... ... ... 990

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £42,258 be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Irish Land Commission" ... ... ... 991

Second and Third Resolutions further postponed; Fourth Resolution agreed to; Postponed Resolutions to be further considered To-morrow ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 991

**Official Secrets Bill** :—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] further adjourned ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 991

**Larceny Bill** [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 991

**Public Works Loans Bill** :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... 991

**Public Health (Ireland) Bill** :—Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [19th May] on Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), further adjourned ... 991

**Bishopric of Bristol Act Amendment Bill** [H.L.] :—Considered in Committee. Clause 1,—Committee report Progress, to sit again To-morrow ... ... ... 991

**Agricultural Rates, Congested Districts and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Bill** :—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 991

**West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill** :—Committee deferred ... ... 991

**Stannaries Bill** [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 992

**Light Railways Bill** :—Third Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 992

**Military Manœuvres Bill** :—Committee deferred... ... ... ... ... 992

**Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill** :—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [15th May] further adjourned ... ... ... ... ... ... 992

MILITARY WORKS [MONEY] :—Committee thereupon deferred ... ... 992

**Burglary Bill** [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 992

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## LORDS: THURSDAY, 30TH JULY 1896.

SAT FIRST:—Lord Moncreiff, sat first in Parliament after the death of his father ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 993

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889:—Ordinances Nos. 151 to 154 laid before the House.—[No. 227] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 993

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

---

**Metropolitan Railway Bill**:—Read the Third time ... ... ... ... 993

New clause moved,—(As to Ventilation of Railway).—(*Earl of Denbigh*) 994

*Secretary of the Board of Trade* ... ... 996
*Earl of Belmore* .. 997
*Lord Monkswell* ... 998
*Chairman of Committees* ... 998
*Lord Connemara* ... ... 999
*Earl of Denbigh* ... ... 999

Proposed clause withdrawn; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 1000

**Finance Bill**:—Brought from the Commons; Read 1ª, and to be printed.—[No 228]... 1000

**London University Commission Bill** [H.L.]:—Read the Third time. Question put, "That the Bill do pass" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1000

Clause 1,—(Appointment of Commissioners) ... ... ... ... 1001

Amendment proposed, to insert, after the space left for the names of the Commissioners, the words, "and it shall be lawful for Her Majesty to appoint a Secretary to the Commissioners."—(*Duke of Devonshire*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 1001

Clause 3,—(Powers and Duties of Commissioners) ... ... ... ... 1001

Amendment proposed to insert at the end of the clause, after the word "instrument":

"provided that no statutes or regulations shall inflict any disability on any college or institution on account of its religious character."—(*Bishop of London*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1001

*Duke of Devonshire* ... 1002
*Bishop of London* ... 1004
*Lord Herschell* ... 1005
*Bishop of Salisbury* ... ... 1007
*Lord Playfair* ... ... ... 1007

Amendment negatived; Bill to be further proceeded with To-morrow 1008

**Labourers' (Ireland) Bill**:—Motion made, "That this Bill be now read a Second time."—(*Earl of Ranfurly*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1008

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and to insert at the end of the Motion the words "this day three months."—(*Lord Sudeley*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1010

*Viscount de Vesci* ... 1011
*Earl of Courtown* ... 1011
*Secretary of State for War* ... 1011
*Earl of Mayo* ... ... ... 1012

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1012

*Earl of Ranfurly* ... 1012
*Lord Castletown*... ... ... 1012

Bill read a Second time, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next ... ... ... ... ... ... 1013

WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS [H.L.]:—Report of Amendments put off ... 1013

**Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill**:—Read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.—(*Lord Belper*) ... ... ... 1013

**Friendly Societies Bill**:—Read 3ª and passed ... ... ... ... ... 1014

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**Collecting Societies Bill**:—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed ... ... 1014

**Post Office Consolidation Bill**:—

*Lord Thring* ... 1014, 1018 *Lord Chancellor*... ... ... 1015
*Earl of Selborne* ... 1014 *Lord Herschell* ... ... ... 1017

Government of Norfolk Island:—Motion made:—

"That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty that copies or extracts of all correspondence relating to the proposed changes in the government of Norfolk Island be laid before the House when completed."—(*Earl of Belmore*) ... 1019

*Earl of Selborne* ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1020

Motion withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1020

**Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill**:—To be Read 2ª To-morrow.—(*Earl of Dudley*) 1020

## COMMONS: THURSDAY, 30TH JULY 1896.

Civil Service Certificates:—Return.—[No. 320.] ... ... ... ... 1021

Distress from Want of Employment:—Report from the Select Committee with Minutes of Evidence.—[No. 321] ... ... ... ... ... 1021

Superannuation:—Copy presented "of Treasury Minute, dated 23rd day of July 1896, granting a retiring allowance to Mr. Alfred Pike, Superintendent of County Courts Treasury."—[No. 322.] ... ... ... 1021

Public Works Loans [Remission]:—Committee To-morrow.—(*Sir John Gorst*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1021

## *QUESTIONS.*

Franco-Congolese Agreement—Question, Sir C. Dilke; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... ... 1021

Hyde Park (Rotten Row)—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles and Col. Wyndham Murray; Answer, First Commissioner of Works ... ... 1022

Madras Infantry Regiments—Question, Sir Seymour King; Answer, Secretary of State for India ... ... ... ... ... ... 1023

East London Water Company—Questions, Mr. Bousfield, Mr. Harry Samuel, Mr. Pickersgill, and Col. Lockwood; Answers, President to the Local Government Board ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1023

National Rifle Association (Ammunition)—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent; Answers, Under Secretary for War ... ... ... ... 1025

Royal Irish Constabulary—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1026

Fire in Parcel Post Van—Question, Mr. Young; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1027

Pattern Post—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1027

St. Matthew's School, Ponders End—Question, Mr. Yoxall; Answer, Vice President of the Council ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1028

Lee-Metford Rifle—Question, Major Rasch; Answer, Financial Secretary to the War Office ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1029

European Troops (India)—Question, Major Rasch; Answer, Secretary of State for India ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1029

Madras City Civil Court—Question, Mr. Lawrence; Answer, Secretary of State for India ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1029

Niger Coast Protectorate—Question, Mr. Lawrence; Answer, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... 1030

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ROAD REPAIR (CO. MONAGHAN)—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1031

LOUGH FOYLE FISHERIES—Question, Mr. T. B. Curran; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1031

BIRR MILITARY BARRACKS—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Under Secretary for War ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1032

SALE OF DRINK (CO. DOWN)—Question, Mr. W. Johnston; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1033

MATABELELAND (ARMS AND AMMUNITION)—Questions, Mr. Duncombe and Mr. Stephens; Answers, Secretary of State for the Colonies ... ... 1033

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES—Question, Lord Balcarres; Answer, Vice President of the Council ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1034

COUNTY COURT JUDGESHIP (CO. DOWN)—Question, Mr. P. O'Brien; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1035

GRAND JURY (CO. KILKENNY)—Question, Mr. P. O'Brien; Answer, Attorney General for Ireland... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1035

BELFAST WORKHOUSE (DEATH OF INMATE)—Question, Mr. Young; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... 1036

FAIR RENT APPLICATION (IRELAND)—Question, Capt. Donelan; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... 1037

RULE OF ROAD AT SEA—Questions, Mr. Warr and Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... 1038

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIC SERUMS—Question, Mr. Samuels; Answer, President of the Local Government Board ... ... ... ... ... ... 1040

STATISTICS OF COTTON, WOOLLEN AND IRON TRADES—Question, Mr. Kenyon; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... 1041

BOMBAY AND MADRAS COTTON TRADE—Question, Mr. Kenyon; Answer, Secretary of State for India ... ... ... ... ... ... 1042

TRANSVAAL RAID—Questions, Mr. P. O'Brien, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Wyndham, Mr. T. M. Healy, and Sir R. Reid; Answers, Home Secretary and Attorney General [Mr. Speaker] ... ... ... ... ... ... 1042

CONVICT PRISON WARDERS—Question, Mr. P. O'Brien; Answer, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1043

ARMY FOOD SUPPLIES (IRELAND)—Questions, Mr. Jordan, Sir Howard Vincent, and Mr. W. Field; Answers, Financial Secretary to the War Office ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1044

EDUCATION FEE GRANT (SCOTLAND)—Question, Mr. Thorburn; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer ... ... ... ... ... ... 1045

SMOKING ACCOMMODATION (LORDS AND COMMONS)—Questions, Mr. Aird and Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, First Commissioner of Works ... ... 1045

EAST INDIA ACCOUNTS—Question, Sir Wm. Wedderburn; Answer, Secretary of State for India ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1046

WRECK OF STEAMSHIP "DRUMMOND CASTLE"—Question, Mr. Stephens, Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... 1046

MOUNTJOY RAILWAY STATION—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1047

PERSECUTION OF ARMENIANS—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... 1047

LENNARD ESTATE (CLONES, CO. MONAGHAN)—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... 1048

COMMISSIONERS OF IRISH LIGHTS—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1049

AGRICULTURAL PARCELS POST—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1049

RHODESIA (FOOD SUPPLIES)—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answer, Secretary of State for the Colonies ... ... ... ... ... 1050

SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT (ATTENDANCES)—Question, Sir Joseph Leese; Answer, Vice-President of the Council ... ... ... ... 1051

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STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (MINING ROYALTY)—Question, Mr. Strauss; Answer, Secretary of State for the Colonies ... ... ... ... ... 1052

VOLUNTEER CORPS (FINANCIAL POSITION)—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Under Secretary for War ... ... ... ... ... 1052

ARBITRATION (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1053

LONGFORD CANAL HARBOUR—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... 1053

MAIL SERVICE (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1054

MERIONETHSHIRE MINES COMMITTEE—Question, Mr. T. Ellis; Answer, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1054

ELECTRIC LIGHTING AND ELECTRIC TRACTION—Question, Mr. Lees; Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... 1055

ASSIZES (STAFFORD)—Question, Mr. C. Shaw; Answer, Attorney General ... 1055

INCIDENCE OF LOCAL TAXATION INQUIRY—Question, Mr. Thorburn; Answer, President of the Local Government Board ... ... ... ... 1056

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Question, Sir William Harcourt; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1056

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**Weights and Measures Bill**:—Bill to legalise the use of weights and measures of the metric system, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and the First Lord of the Treasury; presented accordingly, and read the First time.—[Bill 329.] ... ... 1057

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA—APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE:—

Motion made,—

"That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the administration of the British South Africa Company, and to report what alterations are desirable in the government of the territories under the control of the Company;

"That the Committee have leave to hear Counsel to such extent as they shall see fit, and have power to send for persons, papers, and records."—*(Secretary of State for the Colonies.)* ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1057

Amendment proposed, after the word "into," in the second line, the insertion of these words:—

"the origin and circumstances of the incursion into the South African Republic by an armed force from the territories under the control of the Company, and into."—*(Sir W. Harcourt.)* ... ... ... ... ... ... 1061

*Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett* ... 1065
*Mr. Labouchere* ... ... 1065
*Attorney General* ... ... 1066

Question proposed, "that those words be there inserted."—Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1067

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "into," to insert the words,—

"the origin and circumstances of the incursion into the South African Republic by an armed force, and into."—*(Sir W. Harcourt)* ... ... ... 1067

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put and agreed to ... 1067

Another Amendment made by inserting after the word "report," the words "thereon and further to report." ... ... ... ... 1067

*Mr. Dalziel* ... ... 1067
*Mr. Gibson Bowles* ... 1067
*Sir R. Reid* ... ... 1068
*Mr. Maclean* ... ... 1069
*Mr. Flynn* ... ... 1071
*Mr. Bryn Roberts* ... 1071
*Secretary of State for the Colonies* ... ... 1071, 1075
*Sir A. Rollit* ... ... ... 1072
*Mr. T. M. Healy* ... ... 1072
*Sir H. Havelock-Allan* ... 1074
[*Mr. Speaker* .. ... ... 1075]
*Mr. Dillon* ... ... ... 1075

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Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to. Ordered that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the origin and circumstances of the incursion into the South African Republic by an armed force, and into the administration of the British South Africa Company, and to report thereon, and further to report what alterations are desirable in the Government of the territories under the control of the Company. Ordered that the Committee have leave to hear Counsel to such extent as they shall see fit, and have power to send for persons, papers, and records ... ... ... ... ... 1075

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

**Truck Bill**:—Order read for resuming adjourned Debate on Amendment (27th July) proposed on consideration of the Bill, as amended by the Standing Committee ... 1076

Clause 26,—(Deductions or payments in respect of damaged goods)... 1076

Question proposed, "That the words 'actual or estimated' stand part of the Bill" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1076

Amendment—*(Mr. McKenna)*—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... 1077

Further Amendment proposed, to omit Sub-section (3)—*(Mr. J. Samuel)* 1077

After short debate, Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... 1078

Clause 3,—(Deductions or payments in respect of materials) ... ... 1078

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "gross." —*(Home Secretary)*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1079

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), before the words "any other thing to be done," to insert the words "for and in respect of."—(*Home Secretary*)—Agreed to... ... ... ... 1079

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words :—

"contract is embodied in a printed notice affixed at the pit head, or at the entrance of a factory or workshop,"

and to insert instead thereof the words :—

"terms of the contract are contained in a printed notice kept constantly affixed at such place or places open to workmen, and in such a position that it may be easily seen, read, and copied by any person whom it affects."—(*Home Secretary*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1079

*Mr. Holland* ... ... 1080 *Mr. Asquith* ... ... ... 1082
*Home Secretary* ... ... 1082 *Mr. Kenyon* ... ... ... 1082

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1083

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*b*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "actual or estimated."—(*Mr. McKenna*) ... ... 1083
*Mr. Lough* ... ... 1083 *Mr. Asquith* ... ... ... 1084
*Attorney General* ... 1083

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1084

Further Amendment poposed, in paragraph (*b*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "allowance," and to insert instead thereof the word "charge."—(*Home Secretary*)—Amendment agreed to; clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... 1084

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Clause, 5,—(Recovery of Payments or Deductions) ... ... ... 1084

Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "an action for recovery be raised within three," and to insert instead thereof the words "proceedings for such recovery are commenced within six."—(*Home Secretary*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1084

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words—

"and that where he has consented to or acquiesced in any such deduction or payment, he shall only recover the excess which has been deducted or paid over the amount, if any, which the court may find to have been fair and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case."—(*Mr. McKenna*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1084

*Attorney General* ... 1085
*Sir C. Dilke* ... ... 1086
*Mr. Bousfield* ... ... ... 1086

Amendment withdrawn; clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1086

Clause 6,—(Production of Contract)... ... ... ... ... ... 1086

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "person," ("every person") and to insert instead thereof "employer."—(*Home Secretary*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1086

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the words "any part thereof and," to insert the words "the employer of."—(*Mr. McKenna*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 1086

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the words :—

"shall be entitled on request to obtain from his employer free of charge a copy of the contract or of the document in which it is embodied,"

and to insert instead thereof, the words :—

"shall at the time of making the contract give the workmen or shop assistants a copy of the contract."—(*Mr. McKenna*) ... ... ... ... ... 1087

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1088

Further Amendment proposed, to add after the words last inserted the words—

"a workman or a shop assistant who is a party to any such contract shall be entitled, on request, to obtain from his employer, free of charge, a copy of the contract or of the notice containing its terms."—(*Attorney General*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1088

Further Amendment proposed, to add after the words last inserted, the words :—

"(2) Every employer who has made any contract purporting or intending to operate as a contract under Section 1 of this Act shall keep a register of deductions or payments, and shall enter therein every deduction or payment for or in respect of any fine purporting to be made under any such contract, specifying the amount and the nature of the act or omission in respect of which the fine was imposed, and this register shall be at all times open to inspection by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Factories or of Mines."—(*Mr. Pickersgill*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1088

After short Debate, Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... 1092

Further Amendment proposed, after the words last inserted, to insert the following sub-section :—

"3. A contract or any documents under this Act may be in writing or print, or partly in writing and partly in print."—(*Mr. Brigg*) ... ... ... 1092

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1093

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Clause 7,—(Exemption of Contract from Stamp Duty) ... ... ... 1093

Amendment proposed to leave out the words "in any part of the United Kingdom."—(*Home Secretary*)—Agreed to... ... ... 1093

Bill read the Third time, and passed ... ... ... ... ... 1094

**Uganda Railway Bill**:—Considered in Committee ... ... ... ... 1094

Clause 1,—(Issue of Money out of Consolidated Fund for Purposes of Act) 1094

Question put, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 125; Noes, 35.—(Division List, No. 357) ... 1102

Clause 2,—(Borrowing for Purposes of Act and Accounts and Audit) ... 1102

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "thirty years," and to insert instead thereof the words "fifteen years."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*) ... ... ... ... ... ... 1103

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1107

Further Amendment proposed, providing that a detailed account of the expenditure by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs should be supplied to the Treasury.—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles*) ... ... ... 1107

Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1109

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the Third time To-morrow ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1109

**Locomotives on Highways Bill** [H.L.]:—As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1109

New clause proposed,—(Penalties).—(*President, Local Government Board* ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1109

Clause read 1° and 2°, and ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 1109

New clause proposed,—(Regulations as to Lights).—(*Mr. Luttrell*) ... 1109

*Captain Bethell* ... ... 1110 *Secretary, Local Government Board* ... ... ... 1110

Clause read 1° and 2°, amended, and ordered to stand part of the Bill... 1112

New clause proposed,—(Locomotives to carry a Bell).—(*Mr. Luttrell*)... 1112

Clause read 1° and 2°, and ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 1112

New clause proposed,—(Rate of Speed).—(*Mr. Luttrell*) ... ... 1112

Clause read 1° and 2°, amended, and ordered to stand part of the Bill... 1115

Clause 1,—(Exemption of Light Locomotives from certain Statutory Provisions) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1116

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out "three tons" and to insert "four tons."—(*Mr. Luttrell*)... ... ... ... 1116

Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1117

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1) to leave out the words "or visible vapour."—(*Mr. Luttrell*)—Negatived ... ... ... 1117

Further Amendment proposed, in Paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "A county authority," and to insert instead thereof the words "The council of any county or county borough as the body having power to restrict the use of locomotives on bridges."—(*President, Local Government Board*)—Agreed to ... 1117

Further Amendment proposed, in Paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1), after the word "bridge," to insert the words "within their area."—(*President, Local Government Board.*)—Agreed to ... ... ... 1117

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Further Amendment proposed, in Paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "damage," and to insert instead thereof the word "danger."—(*President, Local Government Board*)—Agreed to 1118

Further Amendment proposed, in Paragraph (*b*) Sub-section (1), after the word "damage," to insert the words "to the bridge or danger." (*Sir J. Dorrington*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1118

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out from Paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1), the words :—

"subject to an appeal to the Local Government Board by any person aggrieved by the exercise of the power,"

and substituting words giving the County Authority the power of regulating the use of locomotives upon highways.—(*Captain Bethell*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1118

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1119

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "power," (struck out) to insert the words "or regulating their use upon highways."—(*Captain Bethell*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1119

Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1120

Clause 3,—(Local Government Board Regulations)... ... ... ... 1120

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1) to leave out the words :—

"and a breach of any such regulation may be thereby made punishable by a fine not exceeding ten pounds, recoverable on summary conviction."—(*President, Local Government Board*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1120

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of Sub-section (2), after the word "area," to insert :—

"and may on the application of any local authority prohibit or restrict the use of locomotives for the purposes of traction in crowded streets or in other places where such use may be attended with danger to the public."—(*President, Local Government Board*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1120

Further Amendment proposed, to add at the end of the clause, after the words last inserted :—

"All regulations under this section shall have full effect notwithstanding anything in any other Act, whether general or local, or any bye-laws or regulations made thereunder."—(*President, Local Government Board*) ... 1120

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1121

Further Amendment proposed, to add at the end of the clause after the words last inserted :—

"And such regulations shall not be invalid by reason only that they contain restrictions or conditions which might be imposed under any of the Acts contained in the Schedule."—(*Mr. Humphreys-Owen*)—Withdrawn ... 1122

Further Amendment proposed, to add at the end of the clause, after the words last inserted :—

"Every regulation purporting to be made in pursuance of this Section shall be forthwith laid before both Houses of Parliament, and if an address is presented to Her Majesty the Queen by either House within the next forty days thereafter, on which that House has sat, praying that any such regulation may be annulled, Her Majesty in Council may annul the same without prejudice to the validity of anything done in the meantime in pursuance thereof; but subject as aforesaid every regulation shall, while unrevoked, be of the same validity as if enacted in this Act."—(*Mr. Parker Smith*) ... ... ... 1122

Amendment withdrawn; Amendment suggested by Mr. Chaplin agreed to; clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 1124

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Clause 4,—(Construction of Wheels of Locomotives on roads)—Amendment withdrawn; clause ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 1124

Clause 5,—(Application to Scotland) ... ... ... ... ... 1124

In the application of this Act to Scotland a reference to the Secretary for Scotland shall be substituted for a reference to the Local Government Board ... 1124

Amendment proposed, after the word "Board," to add the words :—

"A reference to the road authority of any county or burgh for a reference to the council of a county, and a reference to Sub-section 4 of Section 3 of the Locomotives Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1878, for a reference to Sub-section 4 of Section 28 of the Highways and Locomotives Amendment Act, 1878."—(*President, Local Government Board*) ... ... ... ... ... 1124

Amendment to the proposed Amendment agreed to; clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... 1125

Clause 6,—(Application to Ireland) ... ... ... ... ... ... 1125

In the application of this Act to Ireland a reference to the Local Government Board for Ireland shall be substituted for a reference to the Local Government Board.

Amendment proposed, after the word "Board" to add :—

"and a reference to the council of a county shall be construed in an urban sanitary district under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, as a reference to the urban sanitary authority, and elsewhere as a reference to the grand jury."—(*President, Local Government Board.*)—Agreed to ... ... 1125

Further Amendment proposed, to add a proviso at the end of the clause to the effect that in Ireland power should be given to the Grand Jury or County Surveyor to take proceedings before the magistrates against the owners of locomotives for damage done to roads.—(*Mr. Tully*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1125

Amendment negatived; clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1126

Ordered, That the Bill be re-committed to a Committee of the Whole House in respect of a new clause (Excise Duty), and of an Amendment to the Clause (Penalties), added on Consideration, as amended. Bill considered in Committee... ... ... ... ... ... 1127

New Clause brought up,—(Excise duty on certain Locomotives).—(*President, Local Government Board*) ... ... ... ... ... ... 1127

Question put,—"That the Clause be read a Second time."—The Committee divided :—Ayes, 125; Noes, 30.—(Division List, No. 358) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1128

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill. Bill reported, with Amendments; as amended, to be considered To-morrow ... ... ... 1129

**Light Railways Bill** :—Motion made, "That this Bill be read the Third time" ... 1129

Amendment proposed, to re-commit the Bill in respect of Clauses 16, 23, and 25.—(*Mr. Channing*) ... ... ... ... ... ... 1129

Question put, "That the words 'now read the third Time' stand part of the Question." The House divided :—Ayes, 104; Noes, 31.—(Division List, No. 359) ... ... ... ... ... ... 1132

Bill read the Third time, and passed ... ... ... ... ... 1134

**Telegraph Money Bill** :—Read a Second Time, and committed ... ... ... 1134

SUPPLY [24th JULY] REPORT :—Order read, for further consideration of Postponed Resolutions.—

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1896–7.

Class II.—

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £24,597, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and expenses of the Office of Public Works in Ireland,"— ... ... ... 1134

After short Debate, Resolution agreed to ... ... ... ... 1139

**Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill** :—Considered in Committee ... 1139

Clause 1,—(Short Title).—Ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 1140

Clause 3,—(Defining Section 96 (2) of 53 & 54 Vict. c. 70) ... ... 1140

Amendment proposed, to add at the end of the clause—

"Provided that any expenditure that any burgh within the meaning of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, may make under the provisions of this or of the recited Acts shall be defrayed out of a rate to be levied along with, but as a separate rate from the general improvement rate leviable under the said Burgh Police (Scotland) Act where such general improvement rate is levied, but where such rate is not levied then by a rate to be imposed and levied in the same manner as if it were the general improvement rate, with all the powers of imposition, collection, and recovery applicable to that rate."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)—Negatived; Bill reported; Bill, as amended, to be considered upon Saturday ... ... ... ... ... ... 1140

**Public Works Loans Bill** :—After short Debate, read a Second time ... ... 1142

**Public Health (Ireland) Bill** :—Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [19th May] on Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), further adjourned ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1144

**Bishopric of Bristol Act Amendment Bill** [H.L.] :—Committee deferred ... 1144

**Agricultural Rates, Congested Distrtricts and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Bill** :—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 1144

**West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill** :—Committee deferred ... ... 1144

**Stannaries Bill** [H.L.] :—Read a Second Time, and committed ... ... ... 1144

**Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill** :—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [15th May] further adjourned ... ... ... ... ... ... 1144

MILITARY WORKS (MONEY) :—Order for Committee thereupon read, and discharged ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1144

**Burglary Bill** [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred... ... ... ... ... 1144

## LORDS: FRIDAY, 31 JULY 1896.

### *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

**Belfast Corporation Bill** :—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; passed, and returned to the Commons... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1145

**Judicial Trustees Bill** :—Amendments reported (according to Order); further Amendments made.—[No. 230.] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1145

**Railways (Ireland) Bill** :—Read 2ª, (according to Order), and committed to Committee of the Whole House ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1145

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**Land Law (Ireland) Bill**:—Motion made, "That the Bill be now read a Second time."—*(Secretary of State for War)* ... ... ... ... ... ... 1145

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Marquess of Londonderry* | 1159 | *Viscount Midleton* ... ... | 1201 |
| *Earl of Crewe* ... ... | 1174 | *Earl Spencer* ... ... ... | 1205 |
| *Earl of Dunraven* ... | 1179 | *Lord Ashbourne* ... ... ... | 1210 |
| *Earl of Winchilsea* ... | 1181 | *Viscount Templetown* ... ... | 1215 |
| *Lord Monteagle* ... | 1184 | *Earl of Mayo* ... ... ... | 1225 |
| *Lord Castletown* ... | 1187 | *Lord Clonbrock* ... ... ... | 1228 |
| *Duke of Abercorn* ... | 1194 | | |

Bill read a Second time; committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1231

**London University Commission Bill** [H.L]:—Further proceeded with after the Third Reading ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1231

Clause 3,—(Powers and duties of Commissioners) ... ... ... ... 1231

Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause, to insert the following words:—

"Provided that no statutes or regulations shall preclude the University from accepting, if it sees fit, the administration of funds offered for University purposes, whatever may be the conditions attached to such administration."—*(Lord President of the Council)*.—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 1231

Clause 4,—(Approval of Statutes and Regulations)... ... ... ... 1232

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words "thirty days" and to insert instead thereof the words "three months."—(*Duke of Devonshire*)—Agreed to. Bill passed, and sent to the Commons ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1232

**Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2.) Bill**:—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment, and re-committed to the Standing Committee ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1232

**Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill**:—Read 2ª; and committed to a Committee of the Whole House ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1233

**Light Railways Bill**:—Brought from the Commons, and Read 1ª.—[No. 231] ... 1233

**Light Railways Bill**:—Brought from the Commons and Read 1ª.—[No. 232] ... 1233

**Finance Bill**:—To be Read 2ª on Tuesday next.—*(Lord Privy Seal)* ... ... ... 1233

**Naval Reserve Bill**:—Second Reading put off ... ... ... ... ... 1233

## COMMONS: FRIDAY, 31ST JULY 1896.

### *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

**Dublin Corporation Bill**:—

Motion made:—

"That, in the case of the Dublin Corporation Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited."—(*Dr. Farquharson*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1234

After Debate, Bill re-committed ... ... ... ... ... ... 1241

Motion made, after the word "re-committed" to add the words:—

"in respect of Clauses 15 to 23 only to reconsider the same and bring them within the scope of the Instructions of the House."—(*Mr. T M. Healy*) ... ... 1241

Question put, "That those words be there added."—The House divided:—Ayes, 83; Noes, 139.—(Division List, No. 360) ... 1242

Amendment proposed, to insert the words :—

"in respect to Clauses 15 to 26 to reconsider the same and bring them within the scope of the Instruction of the House."—(*Mr. Knox*) ... ... ... 1243

Amendment withdrawn; Motion to re-commit the Bill agreed to. Ordered that the Bill be re-committed ... ... ... ... 1244

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT 1889 (ORDINANCE NO. 151) :—Paper.—[No. 323] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1244

UNIVERSITY (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE NO. 152) :—Paper.—[No. 324] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1244

UNIVERSITY (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE NO. 152) :—Paper.—[No. 325.] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1244

UNIVERSITY (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE NO. 154) :—Paper.—[No. 326] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1244

## *QUESTIONS.*

METROPOLITAN POLICE UNIFORM—Question, Sir C. Dilke; Answer, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1245

GLASGOW MEAT MARKET—Questions, Mr. Souttar and Mr. J. B. Balfour; Answers, Lord Advocate ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1245

GREENWICH PARK—Question, Lord Hugh Cecil; Answer, First Commissioner of Works ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1246

PEAP'S CHARITY (NORTHAMPTONSHIRE)—Question, Mr. Channing; Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1247

HANWELL SCHOOLS—Question Mr. Flower; Answer, President of the Local Government Board ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1249

MILK RAILWAY RATES—Question, Sir J. Dorington; Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1250

NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND—Question, Sir T. Esmonde; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1250

KAFIRISTAN—Question, Mr. S. Smith; Answer, Secretary of State for India 1251

SCHOOL BOARD EXPENDITURE—Questions, Mr. Whittaker; Answers, Vice President of the Council ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1251

INDIAN RAILWAYS (TRAFFIC RECEIPTS)—Question, Mr. Souttar; Answer, Secretary of State for India ... ... ... ... ... ... 1352

DEATH OF A WORKMAN (GLASGOW)—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Lord Advocate ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1253

BURMAH RAILWAY EXTENSION—Question, Mr. Souttar; Answer, Secretary of State for India ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1253

CORK ASSIZES (CHARGE OF PERJURY)—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... 1254

ST. CROSS HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER—Question, Mr. Myers; Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1255

BUNDORAN LOAN FUND—Question, Captain Donelan; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1255

DRUNKENNESS (CARNLOUGH, CO. ANTRIM)—Question, Mr. O'Neill; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... 1256

CHARGE OF MURDER (OMAGH)—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Attorney General for Ireland... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1256

CRETAN CONVENTION AT CANEA—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... ... 1257

HIGH SHERIFFS—Question, Mr. Legh; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer 1257

DRUMBRACKIN POST OFFICE, CARRICKMACROSS—Question, Mr. J. Daly; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... 1258

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GOVERNMENT OFFICES—Question, Mr. G. Loder; Answer, First Commissioner of Works ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1258
LONDON AND DUBLIN NIGHT MAIL SERVICE—Question, Mr. Carew; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1259
POST OFFICE SORTERS—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1259
COMMISSIONERS OF IRISH LIGHTS—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1260
COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME TAX—Questions, Mr. Lewis; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1260
TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION—Question, Mr. Lewis; Answer, First Commissioner of Works ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1261
CLAIM BY CHECKWEIGHMAN (WAKEFIELD)—Question, Mr. Pickard; Answer, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1261
RHODESIA (FOOD SUPPLIES)—Question, Sir H. Havelock-Allan; Answer, Secretary of State for the Colonies ... ... ... ... ... 1262
TRANSVAAL RAID—Questions, Mr. Bayley; Answers, Under Secretary for War ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1262
ROYAL COMMISSION FINANCIAL RELATIONS—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer ... ... ... ... ... ... 1263
CONTINENTAL MAIL—Question, Mr. Lloyd-George; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1263
LIMERICK MAILS—Question, Mr. Austin; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury 1264
MISSION SCHOOLS, ZULULAND—Question, Mr. Knox; Answer, Secretary of State for the Colonies ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1264
MAYBRICK (MRS.)—Questions, Dr. Clark and Mr. Lough; Answers, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1265
IRISH TREASON-FELONY PRISONERS—Questions, Mr. J. O'Connor and Mr. Davitt; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... ... 1265
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SATURDAY SITTING)—Questions, Sir C. Dilke, Sir H. Fowler, Mr. E. Robertson, and Mr. Bryce; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1266
CORRUPT COMMISSIONS—Question, Mr. Hazell; Answer, Attorney General 1267
EAST LONDON WATER SUPPLY—Question, Mr. Samuel; Answer, President of the Local Government Board ... ... ... ... ... ... 1268
PRISON TREATMENT OF DR. JAMESON AND HIS COLLEAGUES—Question, Mr. Flower; Answer, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... 1269

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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SUPPLY:—Considered in Committee. [Twentieth Allotted Day.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

Class II.:—£78,610 to complete the sum for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices ... ... ... ... 1269
Amendment proposed to reduce the Vote by £500, in respect of the salary of the Secretary of State.—(*Mr. Lough*) ... ... ... 1270
Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1283
Original Question put, and agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1295
£127,542 to complete the sum for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Subordinate Departments ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1295
Amendment proposed to reduce the Vote by £500.—(*Mr. H. C. Stephens*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1304

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1309

Further Amendment proposed, to reduce the Vote by the sum of £100.—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*) ... ... ... ... ... ... 1309

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 52; Noes, 135.—(Division List, No. 361) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1309

Original Question put and agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1314

£9,600 to complete the sum for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners in Lunacy in England ... ... ... 1314

Question put, and agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 1315

£376,571, to complete the sum for Stationery and Printing—Agreed to 1315

£26,700, to complete the sum for Civil Service Commission—Agreed to 1315

£39,974, to complete the sum for Exchequer and Audit Departments—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1315

£5,300, to complete the sum for Friendly Societies Registry—Agreed to 1315

£9,500, to complete the sum for the National Debt Office—Agreed to 1315

£8,833, to complete the sum for Privy Council Office—Agreed to ... 1315

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1315

WAYS AND MEANS:—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 1315

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS (REMISSION):—Considered in Committee ... ... 1315

Motion made,—

"That it is expedient to authorise the remission of a debt due from the Draperstown Railway Company to the Public Words Loan Commissioners, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to grant moneys for the purpose of certain Local Loans, and for other purposes relating to Local Loans."—(*Secretary to the Treasury*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1316

Resolution agreed to; to be reported To-morrow ... ... ... 1316

**Expiring Laws Continuance**:—Bill to continue various Expiring Laws, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer; presented accordingly and read the First time; to be read a Second time upon Monday next, and to be printed.—[Bill No. 330] 1316

## COMMONS: SATURDAY, 1ST AUGUST 1896.

### *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

**Dublin Corporation Bill**:—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy [Mr. Speaker] ... ... 1317

**Trout Fishing Close Time (Scotland) Bill**:—Order for Committee read and discharged; Bill withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1318

### *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

**Uganda Railway Bill**:—Read the Third time, and passed ... ... ... 1318

**Locomotives on Highways (Re-committed) Bill** [H.L.]:—As amended, considered; read the Third time, and passed, with Amendments ... ... ... ... 1318

**Telegraph Money Bill**:—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment 1318

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**Public Works Loans Bill**:—Considered in Committee ... ... ... ... 1319

Clause 3,—(Loans to Scottish Fishery Board for Construction or Improvement of Harbours in Scotland) ... ... ... ... 1319

After short Debate, Clause 3 ordered to stand part of the Bill... ... 1320

Clause 4,—(Apportionment of Advances for District Lunatic Asylums in Ireland) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1320

After short Debate, clause negatived ... ... ... ... ... 1324

Clause 5,—(Certain Debts not to be reckoned as Assets of Local Loans Fund) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1324

After short Debate, clause ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 1325

Clause 6,—(Remission of Loan to Draperstown Railway Company) ... 1325

After short Debate, clause ordered to stand part of the Bill; Bill reported, with an Amendment ... ... ... ... ... 1326

**Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill** [H.L.]:—As amended, considered 1326

Clause 3,—(Defining Section 96 (2) of 53 & 54 Vict. c. 70) ... ... 1326

Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add:—

"Provided that any expenditure that any burgh, within the meaning of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, may make under the provisions of this or of the recited Acts shall be defrayed out of a rate to be levied along with, but as a separate rate from, the general improvement rate leviable under the said Burgh Police (Scotland) Act where such general improvement rate is levied; but where such rate is not levied, then by a rate to be imposed and levied in the same manner as if it were the general improvement rate, with all the powers of imposition, collection, and recovery applicable to that rate."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1326

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and negatived; Bill read the Third time, and passed, with an Amendment ... 1326

**Bishopric of Bristol Act Amendment Bill** [H.L.]:—Considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; Bill read the Third time, and passed, without Amendment ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1327

## COMMONS: MONDAY, 3RD AUGUST 1896.

### *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

**Dublin Corporation Bill**:—

Motion made,

"That the Order to re-commit this Bill to the Committee of Selection be read and discharged, and that the Bill be referred to a Committee of the Whole House."—(*Mr T. B. Curran*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1329

After short Debate, Motion withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... 1336

Motion made:—

"That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the former Committee on the Dublin Corporation Bill be referred to the Committee to which the Bill is recommitted, and that it be an Instruction to the Committee to take no further evidence nor hear counsel as to Parts 1, 2 and 4 of the Bill."—(*Mr. Harrington*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1337

Amendment proposed, to add at the end of the Question the words:—

"and they do consider Part 3 of the Bill only with the view of bringing Clauses 15 and 23 into harmony with the Instruction of the House, and of making alterations in the remaining clauses of Part 3 as in their opinion these changes may render desirable."—(*Attorney General for Ireland*) ... ... 1338

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Question, "That those words be there added," put and agreed to ... 1340

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to ... ... ... ... 1341

Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the former Committee on the Dublin Corporation Bill [H.L.] be referred to the Committee to which the Bill is re-committed, and that it be an Instruction to the Committee to take no further evidence nor hear Counsel as to Parts I., II. and IV. of the Bill, and that they do consider Part III. of the Bill only with a view of bringing Clauses 15 and 23 into harmony with the Instructions of the House, and of making such alterations in the remaining clauses of Part III. as in their opinion these changes may render desirable 1341

DURATION OF SPEECHES:—Notice of Motion.—(*Major Rasch*) ... ... 1342

## *QUESTIONS.*

KIRK SESSION OF LAURENCEKIRK—Question, Mr. Crombie; Answer, Lord Advocate ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1342

STONE THROWING AT PASSENGER TRAINS, MULLINGAR—Question, Captain Donelan; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... 1343

ENGLISH AND IRISH MAILS—Questions, Mr. Young, Mr. Condon, and Mr. M. Austin; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... 1343

CHARGE OF TRESPASS (NEWBLISS PETTY SESSIONS)—Question, Mr. Macaleese; Answer, Attorney General for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... 1344

IRISH COLLEGE, PARIS—Question, Mr. E. M'Hugh; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1345

ULSTER FLAX CROP—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1346

SALES OF ESTATES (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1347

ARMY COURT-MARTIAL (SERGEANT SAYERS)—Question, Mr. Morton; Answer, Financial Secretary to the War Office ... ... ... ... 1347

PURDYSBURN ASYLUM, BELFAST—Question, Mr. Kilbride; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1347

WELSH WILLS (TRANSLATION)—Question, Mr. Lewis; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1348

RHODESIA—Questions, Mr. Isaacson; Answers, Secretary of State for the Colonies ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1348

ALDINGHAM PARISH SCHOOL, ULVERSTON—Question, Mr. Herbert Robertson; Answer, Vice President of the Council ... ... ... ... ... 1350

SAVINGS BANK (PROFIT AND LOSS—Question, Mr. Burt; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer ... ... ... ... ... ... 1350

ST. PETER'S FREE SCHOOL, CHELSEA—Question, Mr. Carvell Williams; Answer, Vice President of the Council ... ... ... ... ... 1351

ARTILLERY RANGE (CO. WICKLOW)—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor; Answer, Financial Secretary to the War Office ... ... ... ... ... 1352

CHARGE OF BURGLARY (ST. HELEN'S)—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor; Answer, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1352

HOUSE OF COMMONS LOBBY (MOSAICS)—Question, Dr. Farquharson; Answer, First Commissioner of Works ... ... ... ... ... 1352

CONSULATE (NORTHERN SYRIA)—Questions, Mr. Bryce; Answers, First Commissioner of Works ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1353

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION (LETTERGUNNELL, CO. LONGFORD)—Questions, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answers, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... 1353

CUSTOMS (OUTDOOR OFFICERS)—Question, Mr. Hayden; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1354

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NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. Kilbride; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... 1354

EXCURSION STEAMERS (DRUNKENNESS)—Questions, Sir Cameron Gull and Sir Wilfrid Lawson; Answers, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... 1355

MILITARY WORKS BILL—Questions, Sir C. Dilke; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1355

QUARTER SESSIONS (LONDON) BILL—Question, Sir Andrew Scoble; Answer, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1356

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**Conveyancing and Law of Property Bill**:—Order for Second Reading this day, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... 1356

**Elementary Education Act (1873) Amendment Bill**:—Order for Second Reading this day, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn ... ... ... 1357

**Registration of Electors Acts Amendment Bill**:—Order for Second Reading this day, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... 1357

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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**Agricultural Rates, Congested Districts' and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Bill**:—Order read for consideration of Bill in Committee. Mr. Speaker's ruling *re* Notices on Paper.—Bill considered in Committee ... 1357

Clause 1,—(Classification of Agricultural Land and Heritages for the purposes of Occupiers' Rate) ... ... ... ... ... ... 1358

Amendment proposed, "That Clause 1 be postponed."—(*Mr. Dalziel*)... 1359

Question put, "That Clause 1 be postponed."—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 76; Noes, 116.—(Division List, No. 362) ... 1361

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "May," and to insert instead thereof the word "November."—(*Mr. Edmund Robertson*) —Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1361

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "next after the passing of this Act," and to insert instead thereof the words "one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight."—(*Mr. Shaw*) ... ... 1361

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 129; Noes, 79.—(Division List, No, 363) ... ... ... ... ... ... 1363

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "during the continuance thereof," and to insert instead thereof the words "for a period of two years thereafter."—(*Mr. E. Robertson*) ... ... 1363

Question put, "That the words 'during the continuance thereof' stand part of the clause."—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 138; Noes, 81.—(Division List, No. 364)... ... ... ... ... ... 1371

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "and heritages." —(*Mr Caldwell*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1371

Question put, "That the words 'and heritages' stand part of the clause." —The Committee divided:—Ayes, 149; Noes, 70.—(Division List, No. 365) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1373

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "Scotland," to insert the words "in parishes partly landward and partly burghal.—(*Mr. Caldwell*)—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1373

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "Scotland," to insert the words "in respect of lands and heritages in the occupation of the owner thereof."—(*Mr. E. Robertson*)—Withdrawn... ... ... 1374

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Further Amendment proposed, at the beginning of the clause, to insert :—

"In any parish where the value of agricultural lands and heritages as appearing on the Valuation Roll for the year 1895-6 was less than that for the year 1879-80 by more than 10 per cent. and not more than 25 per cent."—(*Mr. Caldwell*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... 1377

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "Scotland," to insert the words :—

"In any case where the value of agricultural lands and heritages, as appearing on the Valuation Roll for the year 1895-6, was less than that for the year 1879-80 by more than 10 per cent."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) ... ... ... 1381

Question put, "That the words 'in any case where the value of agricultural lands and heritages' be there inserted."—The Committee divided :—Ayes, 58 ; Noes, 130.—(Division List, No. 366) ... 1382

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "Scotland," to insert the words "during the currency of the existing leases thereof."—(*Dr. Clark*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1382

Question put, "That the words 'shall for the purposes of the occupiers,' stand part of the clause."—The Committee divided :—Ayes, 142 ; Noes, 67.—(Division List, No. 367) ... ... ... ... ... 1387

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "consolidated."—(*Mr. Caldwell*)—Negatived ... ... ... 1387

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the word "Acts," to insert :—

"in so far as the amount per pound of that rate does not exceed the amount per pound at which it was levied during the financial year ending the fifteenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six."—(*Mr. Crombie*) ... 1388

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The Committee divided :—Ayes, 72 ; Noes, 157.—(Division List, No. 368) ... 1395

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "three-eighths" and to insert instead thereof the words "one-half."—(*Mr. McLeod*) 1395

Question put, "That the word 'three-eighths' stand part of the clause." —The Committee divided :—Ayes, 152 ; Noes, 64.—(Division List, No. 369) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1399

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2) to leave out the words "poor rate."—(*Mr. T. Shaw*)... ... ... ... ... ... 1400

Question put, "That the words 'the poor rate' stand part of the clause." —The Committee divided :—Ayes, 138 ; Noes, 56.—(Division List, No. 370) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1403

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the words "three-eighths" and to insert instead thereof the words "one half."—(*Mr. McLeod*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1403

Question put, "That the word 'three-eighths,' stand part of the clause." —The Committee divided :—Ayes, 123 ; Noes, 49.—(Division List, No. 371) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1406

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow ... ... ... 1407

**Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill** :—Order read for resuming adjourned Debate on Question [15th May], "That the Bill be now read a Second time." Question again proposed ; Debate resumed ... ... ... ... ... 1407

Motion made, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Dalziel*) ... 1408

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Question put, "That the Debate be now adjourned.'—The House divided :—Ayes, 24 ; Noes, 105.—(Division List, No. 372) ... 1409

First Lord of Treasury claimed to move, "That the Question be now put" ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1409

Question put, "That the Question be now put."—The House divided :—Ayes, 105 ; Noes, 23.—(Division List, No. 373) ... ... ... 1410

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."—The House proceeded to a Division ... ... ... 1410

Mr. Speaker, considering that the Division was frivolously claimed, directed first the Ayes and then the Noes to stand up in their places, and 20 Members having stood up for the Noes, Mr. Speaker declared that the Ayes had it. Main Question put ... ... ... ... 1410

The House proceeded to a Division ... ... ... ... ... 1410

Mr. Speaker again declared the Ayes had it ; Bill read a Second time, and committed for To-morrow... ... ... ... ... ... 1410

**Stannaries Bill** [H.L.] :—Considered in Committee ... ... ... ... 1411

Clause 1,—(Abolition of Vice-Warden's Court) ... ... ... ... 1411

After short Debate, Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow 1413

**Telegraph Money Bill** :—Third Reading deferred ... ... ... ... 1413

**Official Secrets Bill** :—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] deferred ... 1413

**Vexatious Actions Bill** [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... 1413

**Burglary Bill** [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 1413

**Larceny Bill** [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 1413

**Public Works Loans Bill** :—Consideration, as amended, deferred... ... ... 1413

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SUPPLY [31st JULY]. Resolutions reported :—

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1896–7.

Class II. :—

1. £78,610, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices ... ... 1413

2. £127,542, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Subordinate Departments ... ... ... ... 1413

3. £9,600, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners in Lunacy in England ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1414

4. £376,571, for Stationery, Printing, Paper, Binding, and Printed Books for the Public Service, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Stationery Office ; and for sundry Miscellaneous Services, including Reports of Parliamentary Debates 1414

5. £26,700, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Civil Service Commission ... 1414

6. £39,974, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Comptroller and Auditor General ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1414

7. £5,300, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Registry of Friendly Societies... 1414

8. £9,500, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Debt Office ... ... 1414

9. £8,833, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council and for Quarantine Expenses ... ... 1414

Resolutions read a Second time :—First three Resolutions agreed to. Fourth and fifth Resolutions postponed. Subsequent Resolutions agreed to. Postponed Resolutions to be considered To-morrow ... 1414

**Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill** :—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... 1415

**Military Manœuvres Bill**:—Order for Committee read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1415

**West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill**:—Committee deferred ... ... 1415

SUPPLY:—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1415

WAYS AND MEANS:—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 1415

**Public Health (Ireland) Bill**:—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment [15th May] proposed on Consideration of the Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1415

Clause 6,—Power to grant Superannuation Allowance in respect of Duties under Public Health Acts.)—And which Amendment was to leave out the words "they think fit, with the consent," and to insert instead thereof the words "subject to the approval."—(*Mr. Horace Plunkett*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1415

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."—Question put and agreed to ... ... ... 1416

Motion made, "That the Bill be recommitted in respect of certain new clauses." Bill re-committed in respect of certain new clauses. Considered in Committee, and reported ... ... ... ... 1416

**Expiring Laws Continuance Bill**:—Read a Second time and committed ... ... 1416

## LORDS: TUESDAY, 4TH AUGUST 1896.

### *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

**Londonderry Improvement Bill**:—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; passed, and returned to the Commons ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1417

**Drogheda Corporation Bill**:—On the Order for the consideration of the Commons' Amendments to the Drogheda Corporation Bill. Report of the Standing Orders Committee upon the Amendments made by the Commons considered and agreed to; Commons' Amendments also considered (according to Order), and agreed to ... ... 1417

**Bishopric of Bristol Act Amendment Bill** [H.L.]:—Returned from the Commons agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1418

**Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill** [H.L.]:—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with an Amendment .. ... ... ... ... 1418

**Locomotives on Highways Bill** [H.L.]:—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.—[No. 233] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1418

**Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill**:—Reported from the Standing Committee, with Amendments.—[No. 234] ... ... ... 1418

**Finance Bill**:—Read 2ª; Committee negatived; Bill read 3ª, and passed ... ... 1419

**Working Men's Dwellings Bill** [H.L.]:—Amendments reported; a further Amendment made.—[No. 235] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1419

**Labourers (Ireland) Bill**:—Considered in Committee ... ... ... ... 1420

Clause 1,—(Amendment of 46 and 47 Vic. c. 60, ss. 4 and 7, as to periods for procedure, Amendment of Representations, Advertisements, and Notices ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1420

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (5), after the words "may be served on," to insert the words "the owner and," in order to provide that any notice under Section 7 of the Act of 1883 may be served "on the owner and."—(*Earl of Arran*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... 1421

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Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (6), after the word "occupier," to insert the words "or agent of the persons required to be served."—(*Lord de Vesci*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 1421

New clause proposed,—(Provision in case of Lettings by Sanitary Authority to persons other than Agricultural Labourers).—(*Earl of Arran*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1421

The House divided on the Question, "That the clause be inserted in the Bill."—Contents, 25; Not Contents, 19.—(Division List appended) 1425

Clause Amended and ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... 1426

Standing Committee negatived.—[No. 236] ... ... ... ... 1427

**Railways (Ireland) Bill**:—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1427

**Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill**:—On the Order for Committee on the Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill.—(*Secretary Board of Trade*) ... ... ... 1427

Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived ... 1429

**Light Railways Bill**:—Motion made, "That the Bill be now read a Second time."—(*Secretary Board of Trade*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1429

*Bishop of Salisbury* ... 1433 *Chairman of Committees* ... 1434
*Lord Chancellor* ... ... 1434

Motion agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1438

**Truck Bill**:—Read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House ... ... 1438

**Naval Reserve Bill**:—Motion made, "That the Bill be now read a Second Time."—(*Lord Churchill*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1438

Read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House ... ... 1439

**Judicial Trustees Bill**:—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed and returned to the Commons ... ... ... ... ... 1439

**Uganda Railway Bill**:—Brought from the Commons and Read 1ª.—[No. 237] ... 1439

## COMMONS: TUESDAY, 4TH AUGUST 1896.

### *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

**Dublin Corporation (Re-committed) Bill** [H.L.]:—Reported, with Amendments... 1439

**London University Commission Bill** [H.L.]:—Read the First time.—[Bill 331] ... 1439

### *QUESTIONS.*

INCOME TAX (DUNDALK)—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1440

TIPPERARY LABOURERS' SCHEME—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1440

LETTERS FROM BELFAST—Question, Mr. Young; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1441

DROWNING CASES (RIVER LEA)—Question, Mr. Holland; Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... 1441

BOILER EXPLOSION (H.M.S. "BLAKE")—Question, Mr. Warner; Answer, First Lord of the Admiralty ... ... ... ... ... ... 1442

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MACHINE GUNS—Question, Mr. Warner; Answer, Under Secretary for War ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1442
NAVAL SUB-LIEUTENANTS—Question, Mr. Warner; Answer, First Lord of the Admiralty ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1442
ALDERSHOT (TENT FLOOR BOARDS)—Questions, Mr. Warner and Mr. Pirie; Answer, Under Secretary for War ... ... ... 1443
STAFFORDSHIRE MILITIA (RIFLE RANGE)—Question, Mr. Warner; Answer, Under Secretary for War ... ... ... ... ... 1443
REFORMATORY SCHOOLS ACT, 1876 (INDIA)—Question, Mr. H. J. Wilson (Holmfrith); Answer, Secretary of State for India ... ... ... 1444
MILITARY GOVERNOR OF CRETE—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... ... 1444
OPENING OF THE CRETAN ASSEMBLY—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... 1445
NORTHWICH RAILWAY STATION—Question, Sir J. Brunner; Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1447
MILL STREET UNION ELECTION (CO. CORK)—Questions, Mr. Flynn; Answers, Chief Secretary for Ireland and Attorney General for Ireland 1445
AMALGAMATION OF POOR LAW UNIONS (IRELAND) BILL—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... 1447
IRISH LOCAL TAXATION, ETC.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1447
PRISONERS AT PRETORIA—Questions, Mr. Maclean and Sir E. Ashmead Bartlett; Answers, Secretary of State for the Colonies [Mr. Speaker] 1447
SCHOOL TREATS (HIRED WAGONS)—Question, Mr. Mildmay; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer ... ... ... ... ... ... 1449
RHODESIA REBELLION—Question, Mr. Maclean; Answer, Secretary of State for the Colonies ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1449
PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL—Question, Captain Pirie; Answer, Lord Advocate ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1450
DISTURBANCES AT NIKSAR—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Under Seretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... 1450
CRETAN AFFAIRS—Question, Mr. Bryce; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1451
PASTEUR INSTITUTE (INDIA)—Question, Mr. S. Smith; Answer, Secretary of State for India ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1452
COLONIAL OFFICE VOTE—Questions, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1452
LUNATICS (TRADE DEBTS)—Question, Mr. W. F. D. Smith; Answer, Attorney General ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1452
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Questions, Mr. J. Morley, Sir C. Dilke, and Mr. Maclean; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... ... 1453

**Shops**:—Bill to amend the law relating to Shops, ordered to be brought in by Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. John Burns, Dr. Clark, Mr. Davitt, and Mr. Flower; presented accordingly, and read the First time.—[Bill 332] ... 1454

*ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

**Agricultural Rates, Congested Districts' and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Bill**:—Considered in Committee.—[Progress, 3rd August] ... 1455
Clause 1,—(Classification of Agricultural Lands and Heritages for Purposes of Occupiers' Rates) ... ... ... ... ... 1455

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Amendment proposed, to insert proviso to Sub-section (2).—(*Lord Advocate*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1455

Amendment proposed to proposed Amendment.—(*Mr. Asher*) ... 1465

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 158; Noes, 66.—(Division List, No. 376.)—Words inserted ... ... 1473

Further Amendment proposed.—(*Mr. T. Shaw*)—Agreed to.—Original Amendment, as amended, agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1474

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "heritages," to insert the words:—

"not including land that has an appreciable value more than agricultural value."—(*Mr. Dalziel*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1475

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 70; Noes, 158.—(Division List, No. 377) ... 1478

Further Amendment proposed.—(*Mr. McLeod*)—Negatived ... ... 1479

Further Amendment proposed.—(*Mr. Buchanan*)—Negatived... ... 1480

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "or as market gardens, orchards."—(*Mr. J. B. Balfour*)—Negatived ... ... 1480

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "allotments," to insert the words:—

"or which are occupied at a rental of less than ten pounds a year by farm servants or any other persons employed mainly or exclusively for agricultural or pastoral purposes."—(*Sir R. Reid*) ... ... ... 1483

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 61; Noes, 134.—(Division List, No. 378) ... 1485

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words "woodlands."—(*Mr. Munro Ferguson*)—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... 1485

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "purposes" to insert the words:—

"or any shooting, fishings, deer forests, or sporting rights, whether the same be let or unlet."—(*Mr. Caldwell*)—Negatived ... ... ... ... 1489

Further Amendment proposed, after the words "it shall be," to insert the words:—

"decided by the parish council with right to appeal to the sheriff, by whom it shall be."—(*Mr. Crombie*)—Negatived ... ... ... ... 1490

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "Sheriff" to insert the word "principal."—(*Mr. Caldwell*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... 1490

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause, after the word "final," to insert the words, "except that where the decision is given by a Sheriff-substitute it shall be subject to appeal to the Sheriff."—(*Mr. Caldwell*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 1491

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause, after the words last inserted, to add—

"The annual value for the purpose of the occupiers' rate or share of rate shall not be reduced as above unless the occupier has continuously occupied the holding for three years."—(*Mr. White*) ... ... ... ... 1491

Question put.—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 172; Noes, 74.—(Division List, No. 379) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1506

Clause 2,—(Ascertainment of Deficiency arising from reduction of occupiers' rates on agricultural lands and heritages) ... ... 1506

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Amendment proposed, to omit the words "The deficiency arising in the produce of rates under the provisions of this Act shall be ascertained as follows."—*(Mr. Ure).*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 1507

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), to omit the words, "taken as the deficiency arising in the produce of such rate from the provisions of this Act," and to insert instead thereof the following words :

"the amount regulating the distribution of the balance of the money hereinafter mentioned in respect of that rate."—(*Mr. Ure*)—Agreed to ... ... 1508

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (4), after the words "the Secretary for Scotland may," to insert the words "in case of error." —*(Mr. T. Shaw)*—Agreed to.—Clause 2, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1508

Clause 3,—(Payment to Local Taxation (Scotland) Account) ... ... 1508

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "in such manner by such payments, and."—*(Mr. E. Robertson.)*—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1508

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words "referring to the Estate Duty.—*Mr. E. Robertson*" ... ... ... ... ... ... 1508

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 140; Noes, 55.—(Division List, No. 380) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1510

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "equal to eleven-eightieth parts of the sum payable," and to insert the words "equal in the aggregate to the whole of the annual value."—*(Mr. Hedderwick)*—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1510

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words "eleven-eightieths," and to insert instead thereof the words "twelve-eightieths."—*(Dr. Clark)* ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1513

Question put, "That the word 'eleven' stand part of the clause."—The Committee divided :—Ayes, 129 ; Noes, 54.—(Division List, No. 381.)—Clause agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 1513

Clause 4,—Committee Report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow ... ... 1513

**Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill** :—Committee deferred ... ... 1514

**Stannaries Bill** [H.L.] : – Considered in Committee. [Progress, 3rd August] ... ... 1514

Clause 1,—(Abolition of Vice-Warden's Court.) Committee report progress ; to sit again To-morrow ... ... ... ... ... 1514

**Telegraph Money Bill** :—Third Reading deferred ... ... ... ... 1516

**Official Secrets Bill** :—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] further adjourned ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1516

**Vexatious Actions Bill** :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... 1516

**Burglary Bill** :—Second Reading deferred... ... ... ... ... ... 1516

**Larceny Bill** :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 1516

**Public Works Loans Bill** :—Consideration, as amended, deferred ... ... ... 1516

SUPPLY [31st JULY] REPORT :—Further Consideration of postponed Resolutions deferred ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1516

**West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill** :—Committee deferred ... ... 1516

**Public Health (Ireland) (Re-Committed) Bill** : —Consideration, as amended, deferred 1516

**Expiring Laws Continuance Bill** :—Committee deferred ... ... ... 1516

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## COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 5TH AUGUST 1896.

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND (PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURE):—Return.—[No. 328] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1517

FEE FUND (HOUSE OF LORDS:—Account.—[No. 329] ... ... ... 1517

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

**Agricultural Rates, Congested Districts' and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Bill**:—Considered in Committee. [Progress, 4th August] ... ... 1517

Clause 4,—(Application of payment to Local Taxation (Scotland) Account) 1517

Amendment proposed, to omit Sub-section (1).—*(Mr. J. Caldwell)*—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1518

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the word "Tax," to insert the words "and King's mails."—*(Mr. E. Robertson)* Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1526

Further Amendment proposed, to insert at the end of Sub-section (1), "In paying to any burgh a sum equal to the annual amount of the Land Tax redeemed by such burgh."—*(Sir R. Reed)*—Agreed to 1526

Further Amendment proposed, to omit Sub-section (2).—*(Sir C. Dilke)*—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1527

Further Amendment proposed, to omit from Sub-section (2), the words "an authority to be hereafter determined by Act of Parliament," and to insert instead thereof the words "the Crofters Commission."—*(Sir G. Trevelyan)*—Negatived .. ... ... ... ... 1536

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the words "*fifteen thousand pounds*," and to insert instead thereof the words "*forty-six thousand pounds*."—*(Mr. McLeod)*—Withdrawn ... 1538

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the word "deficiency," and to insert instead thereof the word "amounts."—*(Mr. Ure)*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 1540

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words—

"in each case arising from the provisions of this Act in the produce of rates leviable by the said councils respectively,"

and to insert instead thereof the words "for the purpose of regulating such distribution."—*(Mr. Ure)*—Agreed to. Clause 4, as amended, ordered to stand to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... 1540

Clause 5,—(Certain enactments, etc., to have no effect during continuance of this Act) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1540

Amendment proposed, after the words "during the continuance thereof," to insert "Sections 35 and."—*(Mr. Haldane)*—Withdrawn ... 1541

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "assessments," to insert the words "leviable by county councils."—*(Lord Advocate)*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1541

Further Amendment proposed, after "1845," to insert the words "other than certified classifications and all established wages."—*(Lord Advocate)*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1542

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words "thirty-six," and to insert instead thereof the words "thirty-five."—(*Lord Advocate*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1542

Further Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause to add—

"Provided that, notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, a parish council shall have power (1) to alter any classification so as to enable it to become a certified classification, or (2) to depart from any certified classification."—(*Lord Advocate*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 1542

Further Amendment proposed, to omit from the proposed Amendment the words "depart from," in order to insert instead thereof the word "abandon."—(*Lord Advocate*)—Amendment to the proposed Amendment agreed to; Amendment as thus altered agreed to ... 1543

Question put, "That the word 'five' stand part of the clause"—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 163; Noes, 75.—(Division List, No. 382). Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 1549

Clause 6,—(Short title)—Ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... 1549

Clause 7,—(Continuance of Act) ... ... ... ... ... ... 1549

Amendment proposed, to limit the operation of the Bill to three years.—(*Captain Pirie*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1549

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 163; Noes, 75.—(Division List, No. 383.) Clause 7 ordered to stand part of the Bill; Bill reported, as amended ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1550

**Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill**:—Committee deferred ... ... 1550

**Stannaries Bill** [H.L.]:—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 1550

**Public Works Loans Bill**:—Consideration, as amended, deferred ... ... ... 1550

**West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill**:—Committee deferred ... ... 1550

**Public Health (Ireland) (Re-Committed) Bill**:—Consideration, as amended, deferred 1551

SUPPLY:—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1551

WAYS AND MEANS:—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 1551

**London Universities Commission Bill**:—Second Reading deferred ... ... 1551

SUPPLY [31st JULY] REPORT:—Postponed Resolutions further considered. Civil Service and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1896–7.

Class II.—

4. "£376,571 for Stationery, Printing, Paper, Binding, and Printed Books for the Public Service, and, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Stationery Office; and for sundry Miscellaneous Services, including reports of Parliamentary Debates ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1551

Resolution agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1556

5. "£26,700 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Civil Service Commission ... 1556

Resolution further postponed; postponed Resolution to be considered further To-morrow ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1556

## LORDS: THURSDAY, 6TH AUGUST 1896.

### *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

**City and South London Railway Bill**:—Read 3a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; a further Amendment moved, and negatived; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1557

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**Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) Bill**:—Considered in Committee: the Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made; Standing Committee negatived ... ... ... ... ... 1561

**Housing of Working Classes (Scotland) Bill** [H.L.]:—Commons' Amendment considered (according to Order), and agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1561

**Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill**:—Read 3ª. and passed ... ... ... 1561

**Local Government Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill**:—Motion—(*Lord Harris*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1561

**Land Law (Ireland) Bill**:—Considered in Committee ... ... ... ... 1562

Clause 1,—(Fair Rents—Amendment as to Improvements) ... ... 1562

Amendment proposed, to provide that when the Court fixed a fair rent for a holding they should ascertain and record, in the form of a schedule,—

"The several classes of land found upon the holding, marking each class on a map, and showing in respect of each class the estimated area thereof, and the sum which should be the fair rent thereof (per acre or per class), on the assumption that all improvements thereon were made or acquired by the landlord."—(*Viscount Templetown*) ... ... ... ... ... 1565

The House divided:—Contents, 125; Not-Contents, 67.—(Division List appended) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1577

Amendment agreed to ... .. ... ... ... ... ... 1579

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), after the word "all," to insert the words "buildings and."—(*Viscount Templetown.*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... 1579

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), to insert, after the word "landlord," the words—

"the fair rent so declared shall be the sum which in the opinion of the Court a solvent tenant would pay, one year with another, during a statutory term, for the same holding if the holding were in the landlord's hands, and in proper condition."—(*Viscount Templetown*).—Withdrawn ... ... 1580

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*b*), Sub-section (1), after, the word "condition," to insert the words "as to cultivation, deterioration, or otherwise."—(*Lord Castletown*)—Agreed to ... 1580

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "by the tenant," and after the words "or partly by," to insert the words "the tenant."—(*Secretary of State for War*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 1581

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*i*), Sub-section (1), after the word "character," to insert the word "cost." The paragraph moved would then read—

"(*i*) the nature, character, cost and present capital value thereof, and the increased letting value due thereto."—(*Viscount Templetown*) ... ... 1581

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1582

Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph (*f*), Sub-section (1), after the word "may," to insert the words "have been taken into account in fixing the fair rent thereof, or as may."—(*Viscount Templetown*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 1582

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Further Amendment proposed, in paragraph *(f)*, Sub-section (1), to insert after the word "prescribed"—

"from time to time, including all such particulars as are set forth in the form in the Second Schedule to this Act (so far as such particulars are not inconsistent with the other provisions of this section), such form being a copy of the form (commonly known as the 'Pink Schedule') which the Assistant Commissioners have for some time previous to the passing of this Act been required by the Land Commission to fill up when fixing the fair rent of a holding."—(*Viscount Templetown*).—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 1582

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), after the words "Land Law Acts," to insert the words, "as amended by this Act."—*(Secretary of State for War)*—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 1582

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (4), after the words "Land Law Acts," to insert the words, "as amended by this Act."—(*Secretary of State for War*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... 1582

Further Amendment proposed, after Sub-section (7), to insert the following new sub-section :—

"(8) No deduction shall be made from the fair rent named in this section by reason of the mere right of occupation vested in the tenant."—(*Lord Inchiquin*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1582

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1585

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (8), to insert the word "one" after "Sub-sections."—(*Lord Ardilaun*)—Agreed to ... 1585

Words "and Sub-section (1) of the same section in the case of sales after the passing of the Act" of 1870, inserted ... ... ... 1586

Further Amendment proposed, after Clause 1.—(*Earl of Dunraven*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1586

Further Amendment proposed, after Clause 1.—(*Lord Inchiquin*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1590

Further Amendment proposed.—*(Earl of Winchilsea)* ... ... ... 1591

Amendment withdrawn ; clause ordered to stand part of the Bill ... 1599

Clause 2,—(Statutory Term and beginning of Judicial Rent) ... ... 1599

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words—

"be deducted from any rent subsequently payable by him, unless the judicial rent exceeds fifty pounds a year, in which case the difference may be deducted."—(*Earl of Portsmouth*) ... ... ... ... ... 1600

Amendment withdrawn ; Clause 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill ... 1600

Clause 3,—(Judicial Term in cases of Agreements)—Ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1600

Clause 4,—(Exclusion of certain Holdings)... ... ... ... ... 1601

Amendment proposed, to leave out paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1)—

"to a tenancy in any holding which is not substantially either agricultural or pastoral in its character, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral, or the main object of the letting of which was for a residence."—(*Lord Macnaghten*) 1602

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1603

Further Amendment proposed, after paragraph (ii), Sub-section (1), to insert the following new paragraph :—

"(iii) land which when first demised was demesne and which was originally let by a limited owner or."—(*Lord Macnaghten*) ... ... ... ... 1603

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1604

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Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-paragraph (1), Paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "one hundred" and to insert instead thereof the word "fifty."—(*Lord Cloncurry*) ... 1604

The Committee divided on the Question that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause:—Contents, 60; Not-Contents, 107. (Division List appended).—Amendment agreed to ... ... ... 1622

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out Sub-section (2)—(*Lord Castletown*).—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... 1624

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words "may if it think just," and to insert after the word "common" the words—

"may, if it think that it is just, and that no portion of the holding when divided will be of less value than ten pounds valuation."—(*Lord Monteagle*)—

Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1627

Further Amendment proposed, to omit Sub-section (3).—(*Earl of Arran*) —Agreed to; Clause 4, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1627

Clause 5,—(Town Parks) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1627

Amendment proposed, to omit Clause 5.—(*Lord Macnaghten*) ... ... 1628

The Committee divided on the Question that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill:—Contents, 77; Not-contents, 96.—(Division List appended). —Clause 5 accordingly struck out ... ... ... ... ... 1638

Clause 6,—(Exclusion by Sub-letting of Holding) ... ... ... ... 1640

Amendment proposed, in Paragraph (*b*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words—

"if in the estimation of the Court a part not less than seven-eighths or thereabouts in value of the holding, excluding from such value the value of any buildings erected by the tenant, remains in the *bonâ fide* occupation of tenant; and if"—(*Viscount de Vesci*) ... ... ... ... ... 1641

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1642

Further Amendment proposed, in Paragraph (*b*) Sub-section (1), after "1887, or," to insert the words "if it."—(*Lord de Vesci*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1642

Further Amendment proposed, in the end of Paragraph (*b*) Sub-section (1), after the word "date" to insert the words

"provided that the amount of land so sub-let shall not exceed one-eighth of the holding, nor one statute acre for each house or allotment, nor five acres in the aggregate."—(*Lord de Vesci*)... ... ... ... ... ... 1642

Amendment agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1642

Further Amendment proposed, to insert words providing that the receipt of rent by a landlord after a sub-letting should not be deemed consent to the sub-letting.—(*Duke of Abercorn*)—Withdrawn; Clause 6, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill ... 1643

Clause 7,—(Judicial Rent may be fixed where Contract provides for Resumption of Holding by the Landlord)—Ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1643

Clause 8,—(Turbary and other Profits, Easements and Privileges.) Amendment proposed, to leave out Clause 8.—(*Earl of Belmore*) ... ... 1643

Clause negatived; Debate adjourned; House resumed; and to be again in Committee to-morrow ... ... ... ... ... ... 1650

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**Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill**:—Amendments reported ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1650

**Working Men's Dwellings Bill** [H.L.]:—Read 3ª; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1650

**Truck Bill**:—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1650

**Naval Reserve Bill**:—Considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1651

**Locomotives on Highways Bill** [H.L.]:—Commons' Amendments to be considered on Monday next ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1651

## COMMONS: THURSDAY, 6TH AUGUST 1896.

### *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

**Dublin Corporation Bill**:—Resolved, "That, in the case of the Dublin Corporation (re-committed) Bill [H.L.], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited."—(*Dr. Farquharson*) ... ... ... ... ... 1651

New clause proposed,—(Saving Rights of the War Department).—(*The Under Secretary for War.*)—Read a First and Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... 1651

New clause ruled out of order ... ... ... ... ... ... 1652

New clause proposed,—(Appointment of President of Court of Conscience).—(*Mr. Clancy*)—Read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1653

Clause 8,—(Price of Excess or Surplus Water) ... ... ... ... 1654

Amendment proposed, at the end of the clause, after the word "provided," to insert:—

"Provided always that nothing in this Act contained shall be deemed to interfere with the existing contracts between the Corporation and the Commissioners of the new Kilmainham township."—(*Mr. Clancy*).—Negatived ... ... 1654

Clause 15,—(Future qualification of Burgesses) ... ... ... ... 1656

Clause 16,—(Preservation of existing qualification) ... ... ... 1656

Clause 17,—(Revising Barrister to sign Lists) ... ... ... ... 1656

Clause 18,—(Lists to be delivered to Town Clerk) ... ... ... ... 1657

Amendment proposed, to omit Clauses 15 to 18 inclusive.—(*Mr. Harrington*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1657

Amendment withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1665

Clause 19,—(Election of Councillors to be triennial) ... ... ... 1665

Clause 20,—(Aldermen to be elected by groups of Wards) ... ... 1665

Amendment proposed, to omit Clauses 19 and 20.—(*Mr. Harrington*) ... 1666

Question put, "That the words of Clauses 19 and 20 down to the word 'shall,' in page 9, line 18, stand part of the Bill."—The House divided:—Ayes, 106; Noes, 111.—(Division List, No. 384.) Remaining words of Clause 20 omitted ... ... ... ... 1673

Clause 21,—(Presiding Officers at Elections) ... ... ... ... 1673

Clause 22,—(As to casual vacancies in office of Councillor or Alderman) 1673

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Clause 23,—(No person to be eligible for election as Alderman or Councillor unless he has paid all rates, etc.) ... ... ... ... 1673

Amendment proposed to omit Clauses 21, 22 and 23.—(*Mr. Harrington*) —Motion agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1674

Clause 24,—(Office of Borough Assessor to be abolished) ... ... ... 1674

Amendment proposed, to omit Clause 24,—(*Mr. Harrington*)—Withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1674

Clause 25,—(Officers to continue to hold office) ... ... ... ... 1674

Amendment proposed to omit Clause 25.—(*Mr. Harrington*) ... ... 1674

Question put, "That Clause 25 stand part of the Bill."—The House divided:—Ayes, 88; Noes, 129.—(Division List, No. 385) ... 1675

Clanse 26,—(Sub-Sheriff of County of City of Dublin to continue to hold office and Sub-Sheriff to enter into bond) ... ... ... ... 1676

Amendment proposed, to omit Clause 26.—(*Mr. Harrington*) ... ... 1676

Amendment agreed to; Standing Orders 223 and 243 suspended. Bill read the Third time and passed, with Amendments... ... ... 1677

## *QUESTIONS.*

VACCINATION (ROYAL COMMISSION)—Question, Mr. Bayley; Answer, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1677

EVICTION NOTICES (CO. CAVAN)—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... 1677

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS (WORK-MISTRESSES)—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... 1678

BELTURBET MILITARY BARRACKS—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Financial Secretary to the War Office ... ... ... ... ... 1679

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BARRACKS—Questions, Mr. Galloway and Sir C. Dilke; Answers, Under Secretary for War ... ... ... ... 1679

ARMY FOOD AND FORAGE SUPPLIES—Question, Colonel Russell; Answer, Financial Secretary to the War Office ... ... ... ... ... 1680

MERCANTILE MARINE (EXAMINATION OF MASTERS AND MATES)—Question, Sir Edward Gourley; Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... 1680

TRANSMISSION OF SEAMEN'S WAGES—Questions, Sir Edward Gourley, Mr. J. H. Wilson, and Colonel Denny; Answers, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1681

FEMALE TELEGRAPHISTS (BELFAST)—Questions, Mr. P. O'Brien; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1683

SKIBBEREEN MAGISTRACY—Question, Mr. P. O'Brien; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1684

ELECTION OF POOR LAW GUARDIANS, IRELAND—Question, Mr. J. Daly; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... 1685

POTATO DISEASE (CO. CAVAN)—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1685

BAILIEBOROUGH UNION (CO. CAVAN)—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1686

DEATH OF A BOY AT COOKSTOWN (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. Doogan; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... 1687

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, HEYWOOD—Question, Mr. Carvell Williams; Answer, Vice President of the Council ... ... ... ... ... ... 1687

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BURIAL AT SHIRLAND, NEAR ALFRETON—Question, Mr. Carwell Williams; Answer, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1688
BOILER EXPLOSION (H.M.S. "BLAKE")—Question, Mr. Fortescue Flannery; Answer, First Lord of the Admiralty ... ... ... ... ... 1688
COUNTY SURVEYORSHIP (IRELAND)—Question, Mr. William Johnston; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... 1689
STREET PREACHING (SLIGO)—Question, Mr. Johnston; Answer, Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1689
GOVERNMENT PRINTING CONTRACTS (IRELAND)—Questions, Mr. Davitt, and Mr. Corbett; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Secretary for Ireland ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1690
LEE-METFORD AMMUNITION AT BISLEY—Questions, Mr. Baillie, Major Rasch, Sir H. Fletcher, and Mr. Dalziel; Answers, Under Secretary for War ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1691
QUEEN'S HARBOUR MASTER FOR HAMOAZE—Question, Mr. Ascroft; Answer, First Lord of the Admiralty ... ... ... ... ... ... 1692
BOYCE (THE LATE DR.)—Question, Mr. Bhownaggree; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... ... 1693
LOCAL LOANS (WALES)—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1693
COUNTY COURT FEES—Question, Mr. Bemrose; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1694
ILLEGAL TRAWLING (SCOTCH WATERS)—Question, Mr. McLeod; Answer, Lord Advocate ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1695
RAILWAY ACCIDENTS AT PRESTON—Question, Lord Balcarres; Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... 1695
COAL MINES REGULATION BILL—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke; Answers, Home Secretary ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1696
LIMERICK POST OFFICE—Question, Mr. P. O'Brien; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1696
EAST LONDON WATER SUPPLY—Question, Mr. Pickersgill; Answer postponed 1697
SLAVERY AT ZANZIBAR—Questions, Mr. J. A. Pease, Colonel Denny, and Mr. Dalziel; Answers, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... 1697
SLAVE TRADE IN MOROCCO—Question, Mr. J. A. Pease; Answer, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs ... ... ... ... ... ... 1697
NORTH SEA FISHERIES—Question, Mr. Buchanan; Answer, Lord Advocate 1698
INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT (DUNDALK)—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Secretary to the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1698
ALDERSHOT (TENT FLOOR BOARDS)—Questions, Captain Pirie; Answer, Under Secretary for War ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1699
WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY—Question, Mr. Buchanan; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1699
NATIONAL GALLERY OF SCOTLAND—Questions, Mr. Buchanan; Answers, Secretary to the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer ... ... 1700
GAME LICENCES (SCOTLAND)—Question, Mr. Pierpoint; Answer, Chancellor of the Exchequer ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1701
QUEEN'S REIGN—Question, Mr. Galloway; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1701
INDIAN BUDGET—Question, Sir William Wedderburn; Answer, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1701
MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT—Question, Mr. C. Wilson (Hull); Answer, President of the Board of Trade ... ... ... ... ... ... 1701
AGRICULTURAL LAND RATING BILL—Questions, Sir William Harcourt and Dr. Clarke; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... 1702
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Questions, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. A. O'Connor, and Colonel Hughes; Answers, First Lord of the Treasury ... ... ... 1703

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**Local Taxation (Ireland) Estate Duty Bill** :—Bill for paying to the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account a share of the Estate Duty, brought in by Chief Secretary for Ireland, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Attorney General for Ireland, and Read the First time.—[Bill 334] ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1704

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

**Agricultural Rates, Congested Districts' and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Bill** :—As amended, considered ... ... ... ... ... 1704

Clause 1,—(Classification of Agricultural Lands and Heritages for purposes of Occupiers' Rates) ... ... ... ... ... 1704

Amendment proposed, to leave out Clause 1.—*(Mr. Caldwell)* ... 1705

Question put, "That the words of the clause to the word 'Scotland,' in line 7, inclusive, stand part of the Bill."—The House divided :—Ayes, 137 ; Noes, 58.—(Division List, No. 386) ... ... ... 1711

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "Scotland," to insert the words "in which the rent has not been raised since the passing of this Act."—*(Mr. Crombie)* ... ... ... ... ... 1711

Further Amendment proposed, to add to the proposed Amendment the words :—

"unless in so far as increased rent is stipulated to be paid in respect of improvements made by the landlord."—(*Mr. J. B. Balfour*).—Words added to proposed Amendment ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1715

Question put, "That the words 'in which the rent has not been raised since the passing of this Act, unless in so far as the increased rent is stipulated to be paid in respect of improvements made by the landlord' be there inserted."—The House divided :—Ayes, 49 ; Noes, 119.—(Division List, No. 387) ... ... ... ... 1716

Further Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (1), after the word "Acts," to insert the words :—

"in so far as the amount per pound of that rate does not exceed the amount per pound at which it was levied during the financial year ending the fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six."—*Mr. Crombie* ... 1716

Amendment negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1717

Further Amendment proposed, to omit the words :—

"Provided always that, in the case of any holding in a crofting parish, the Crofters' Commission in fixing a fair rent for such holding shall not be entitled to take into account the relief affected by this Act from a proportion of the consolidated rate, poor rate, and other rates before mentioned."—(*Lord Advocate.*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1718

Further Amendment proposed, to omit from the next paragraph of the clause the words "or pastoral."—(*Mr. McLeod*)—Negatived ... 1718

Further Amendment proposed, after the words "pastoral purposes," to insert the words "and upon which the occupier resides."—(*Mr. McLeod*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1721

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The House divided :—Ayes, 52 ; Noes, 132.—(Division List, No. 388)... ... 1724

Further Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "together with a house," and to insert instead thereof the words "or used."—(*Mr. Luttrell*)—Negatived ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1724

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Further Amendment proposed, after the words "pleasure ground," to insert :—

"or any land which, owing to its being situate within or to its proximity to any Burgh, as defined by the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, bears an increased value over and above its ordinary value as agricultural or pastoral land."—(*Mr. Dalziel*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1725

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."—The House divided :—Ayes, 61 ; Noes, 143.—(Division List, No. 389) ... 1735

Further Amendment proposed, after the word "final" ("whose decision shall be final") to leave out the words "except where the decision is given by a Sheriff-Substitute it shall be subject to appeal to the Sheriff."—(*Mr. Ure*)—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... 1735

Clause 4,—(Application of Payment to Local Taxation (Scotland) Account) 1736

Amendment proposed, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the words "Congested Districts."—(*Mr. McLeod*) ... ... ... ... 1737

Question put, "That the words 'congested districts in' stand part of the Bill."—The House divided :—Ayes, 135 ; Noes, 54.—(Division List, No. 390) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1737

Further Amendment proposed, to omit Clause 5.—(*Mr. Ure*) ... ... 1737

Question put, "That the words of the clause to the word 'any,' in page 4, line 9, stand part of the Bill."—The House divided :—Ayes 131 ; Noes, 52.—(Division List, No. 391) ... ... ... ... ... 1741

Motion made, "That the Bill be now read the Third time."—(*The Lord Advocate*) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1741

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now" and to insert "this day three months."—(*Sir G. Trevelyan*) ... ... ... ... 1741

Question put, "That the word 'now,' stand part of the Question."—The House divided :—Ayes, 124 ; Noes, 45.—(Division List, No. 392) 1751

**West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill** :—Considered in Committee. After short Debate (Clause 1) Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Saturday ... 1754

SUPPLY :—Considered in Committee :—

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7 :—

Class II.—1. £3,573, to complete the sum for Lunacy Commission, Scotland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1754

2. £3,175, to complete the sum for Registrar General's Office, Scotland —Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1754

3. £7,591, to complete the sum for Local Government Board for Scotland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1754

Class III.—4. £26,295, to complete the sum for Register House, Edinburgh—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... 1754

5. £55,356, to complete the sum for Prisons, Scotland—Agreed to ... 1754

Class IV.—6. £1,960, to complete the sum for National Gallery, etc., Scotland—Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1754

Class VII.—7. £24,200, to complete the sum for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications ... ... ... 1754

Vote agreed to ; Resolutions to be reported To-morrow ... ... ... 1755

SUPPLY [31ST JULY] REPORT :—Postponed Resolution further considered 1755

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1896–7 ... 1755

[*August* 6.] *Page*

Class II. :—

"5. £26,700, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Civil Service Commission."
Agreed to ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1755

**Parliamentary Costs Bill** [H.L.] :—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1755

**Telegraph Money Bill** :—Third Reading deferred ... ... ... ... 1755

**Official Secrets Bill** :—Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] further adjourned till To-morrow ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1755

**Vexatious Actions Bill** [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred till To-morrow ... ... 1756

**Burglary Bill** [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred ... ... ... ... ... 1756

**Larceny Bill** [H.L.] :—Read a Second time, and committed for To-morrow ... 1756

**Expiring Laws Continuance Bill** :—Committee deferred ... ... ... 1756

**Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill** :—Committee deferred ... ... 1756

**Stannaries Bill** [H.L.] :—Committee deferred ... ... ... ... ... 1756

**Public Works Loans Bill** :—Consideration, as amended, deferred ... ... ... 1756

**Public Health (Ireland) (Re-Committed) Bill** :—As amended, considered; Bill read the Third time, and passed ... ... ... ... ... ... 1756

**London University Commission Bill** [H.L.] :—Second Reading deferred ... ... 1756

END OF VOL. XLIII.

# BILLS DEALT WITH IN VOL. XLIII.

| *Title of Bill.* | *Progress.* |
|---|---|
| Abensur's Naturalisation | Read $3^{o}$, and Passed, July 27. |
| Agricultural Land Rating | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Agricultural Rating (Scotland) | Read $3^{o}$, and Passed, Aug. 6. |
| Belfast Corporation | Read $3^{a}$, and Passed, July 31. |
| Belfast Street Tramways | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Berriew School | Withdrawn, July 20. |
| Bishopric of Bristol Act (Amendment) | Read $3^{o}$, and Passed, Aug. 1. |
| Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramroads | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Blackpool Improvement | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Blackpool, St. Anne's, and Lytham Tramways | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Blackrock and Kingstown Drainage | Read $2^{a}$, and Committed, July 17. |
| Boyne Navigation Transfer | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Brighton Corporation (Water) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Burials | Withdrawn, July 28. |
| Burntisland Harbour | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Burton-upon-Trent Corporation | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Cabs (London) | Returned from Commons to Lords, July 24. |
| Caledonian Railway | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Cemeteries | Withdrawn, July 23. |
| Chairmen of District Councils | Lords Amendments agreed to, July 23. |
| Chamber's Estate | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| City and South London Railway | Read $3^{a}$, and Passed, Aug. 6. |
| Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) | In Committee, July 31. |
| Collecting Societies | Read $3^{a}$, and Passed, July 30. |
| Commons Regulation (Darwen) Provisional Order | Read $2^{a}$, and committed to Committee of Whole House, July 27. |
| Companies | Reported from Select Committee, July 17. |
| Conciliation (Trade Disputes) | Read $3^{a}$, and Passed, Aug. 6. |
| Conveyancing and Law of Property | Withdrawn, Aug. 3. |
| Culter Water Order Confirmation | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Dalmeny and Kirkliston Water Provisional Order | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Diseases of Animals | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| District Councils (Water Supply Facilities) | Withdrawn, July 29. |

| *Title of Bill.* | *Progress.* |
|---|---|
| Drogheda Corporation | Report of Standing Committee, Aug. 4. |
| Dublin Corporation | Read 3º, and Passed, with Amendments, Aug. 6. |
| East Surrey Water | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Edinburgh General Register House | Read 3ª, and Passed, July 23. |
| Election Petitions | Withdrawn, July 21. |
| Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Elementary Education Act (1873) Amendment | Withdrawn, Aug. 3. |
| Expiring Laws Continuance | Read 2º,and Committed, Aug.3. |
| Falmouth Rectory | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Finance | Read 3ª, and Passed, Aug. 4. |
| Fisheries Acts (Norfolk and Suffolk) Amendment | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Fishery Acts Amendment | Read 3ª, and Passed, July 17. |
| Foyle College and Londonderry Academical Institution (Amalgamation) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Freshwater, Yarmouth and Newport Railway | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Friendly Societies | Read 3ª, and Passed, July 30. |
| Gas and Water Provisional Orders | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Glasgow Parliamentary Divisions | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Great Northern Railway | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Great Western Railway (Denbighshire Railways) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Houses of the Working Classes (Scotland) | Read 3ª, and Passed, Aug. 1. |
| Incumbents of Benefices Loans Extension | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Infant Life Protection | Re-committed, July 23. |
| Judicial Trustees | Read 3ª, and Passed, Aug. 4. |
| Kelty Water Provisional Order | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Kirkcaldy and Dysart Water | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Labourers (Ireland) | In Committee, Aug. 4. |
| Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North Western Railway Companies | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Land Law (Ireland) | In Committee, Aug. 6. |
| Land Tax Commissioners' Names | Withdrawn, July 21. |
| Larceny | Read 2ª, Aug. 6. |
| Leamington Corporation | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Light Railways | Read 2ª, Aug. 4. |
| Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland) | Withdrawn, July 29. |
| Liverpool Court of Passage | Read 3ª, and Passed, July 20. |
| Llanelly Harbour | Read 3º, and Passed, July 20. |
| Local Government (Aldershot and Farnborough) | Withdrawn, July 20. |
| Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 9) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) | In Committee, Aug. 6. |

| *Title of Bill.* | *Progress.* |
|---|---|
| Local Government Provisional Order (No. 2) | Read $3^{a}$, and Passed, July 23 |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) | Read $2^{a}$, July 24. |
| Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) | Reported, without Amendment, July 28. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 18) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 19) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Order (No. 21) | Read $2^{a}$, July 24. |
| Local Government Provisional Order (No. 22) | Read $2^{a}$, July 24. |
| Local Government Provisional Order (No. 23) | Read $3^{o}$, and Passed, July 28. |
| Local Government Provisional Order (Ports) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Government Provisional Order (Warrington) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Local Taxation (Ireland) Estate Duty | Read $1^{o}$, Aug. 6. |
| Locomotives on Highways | Read $3^{o}$, and Passed, Aug. 1. |
| Locomotives on Highways (Excise Duty) | In Committee, July 27. |
| London and North Western Railway | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| London Brighton and South Coast Railway | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Londonderry Improvement | Read $3^{a}$, and Passed, Aug. 4. |
| London Sea Water Supply | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| London University Commission | Read $1^{o}$, Aug. 4. |
| Matlock Bath Gas | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Metropolitan District Railway | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Metropolitan Railway | Read $3^{a}$, and Passed, July 30. |
| Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment | Read $2^{o}$, Aug. 3. |
| Military Lands Provisional Orders | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Military Manœuvres | Withdrawn, Aug. 3. |
| Military Works (Money) | In Committee, July 20. |
| Naval Reserve | In Committee, Aug. 6. |
| Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway | Reported, without Amendment, July 23. |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| North British Railway | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| North Cornwall Railway | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| North-Eastern Railway | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| North Wales Counties Lunatic Asylum (Water) | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Orkney and Zetland Small Piers and Harbours (Re-committed) | Read $3^{a}$, and Passed, July 23 |
| Parliamentary Costs | Withdrawn, Aug. 6. |
| Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes) | Withdrawn, July 22. |
| Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) | Royal Assent, July 20. |

| *Title of Bill.* | *Progress.* |
|---|---|
| Pilotage Provisional Order ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Portsmouth (Borough) Water ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Portsmouth Street Tramways ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Port Talbot Railway and Docks (Ogmore Valleys Extension) ... ... ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Post Office Consolidation ... ... ... ... | Withdrawn, July 20. |
| Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation) ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Public Health ... ... ... ... ... | Read 3ª, and Passed, July 24. |
| Public Health (Ireland) ... ... ... ... | Read 3°, and Passed, Aug 6. |
| Public Health (Ports) ... ... ... ... | Read 3ª, and Passed, July 24. |
| Public Offices (Site) ... ... ... ... | Read 3ª, and Passed, July 24. |
| Public Works (Loans) ... ... ... ... | Reported, with Amendment, Aug. 1 |
| Quarter Sessions (London) ... ... ... | Read 1°, July 28. |
| Railway Assessors (Scotland) Superannuation ... | Withdrawn, July 20. |
| Railways (Ireland) ... ... ... ... | In Committee, Aug. 4. |
| Registration of Electors Acts (Amendment) ... | Withdrawn, Aug. 3. |
| Sheffield Corporation Tramways ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Shops ... ... ... ... ... ... | Read 1°, Aug. 4. |
| Short Titles ... ... ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| South Eastern Railway ... ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Special Juries ... ... ... ... ... | Read 1ª, July 24. |
| Stannaries ... ... ... ... ... ... | In Committee, July 23. |
| Stipendiary Magistrates ... ... ... ... | Withdrawn, July 20. |
| Swansea Harbour ... ... ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Teachers' Registration ... ... ... ... | Withdrawn, July 20. |
| Telegraph Money ... ... ... ... ... | In Committee, Aug. 1. |
| Tramways Provisional Orders (No 1) ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Trout Fishing Close Time (Scotland) ... ... | Withdrawn, Aug. 1. |
| Truck ... ... ... ... ... ... | Reported, without Amendment, Aug. 6. |
| Uganda Railway ... ... ... ... ... | Read 1ª, Aug. 4. |
| Vexatious Actions... ... ... ... ... | Read 1°, July 27. |
| Waterford Corporation ... ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Water Provisional Orders... ... ... ... | Read 3ª, and Passed, July 20. |
| Weaver Navigation ... ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |
| Weights and Measures (Metric System) ... ... | Withdrawn, Aug. 3. |
| West Highland Railway Guarantee ... ... | In Committee, Aug. 6. |
| Working Men's Dwellings ... ... ... | Read 3ª, and Passed, Aug. 6 |
| Yeovil Corporation (Water) ... ... ... | Royal Assent, July 20. |

THE

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

*(Authorised Edition)*

IN THE

*SECOND SESSION* OF THE *TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT* OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*
APPOINTED TO MEET AUGUST 12, 1895, IN THE FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF
THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

SEVENTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1896.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Friday, 17th July 1896.*

## VENEZUELA AND ARBITRATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER (The MARQUESS of SALISBURY): I am laying Papers on the Table with respect to the correspondence which has taken place on the matter of arbitration with the United States. I venture to say a few words, which is unusual, because I am taking an unusual course with respect to the Papers. The negotiation is not complete. It is usual to wait until the negotiation is complete, but with the assent of the American Government we have thought it better to lay the Papers now. The Recess has begun in America, and I hope it will, before very long, begin in England, and I think it would be inconvenient that Parliament should separate without knowing what has been going on in respect to this very important question. Therefore, I have departed from the usual practice by laying Papers intermediately. The negotiation, as I have said, is not complete, but I think, considering the great importance of some of the issues that are at stake, it has been advancing in a favourable manner, and certainly with entire friendliness on the part of both Governments. It has taken two courses. In the first place there is the smaller question of Venezuela, in respect of which the United States has assumed the attitude of the friend of Venezuela, and we have been rather glad to negotiate with the United States rather than with Venezuela. But in respect to that, as I have said, we have not come to a conclusion. The difficulty lies in the fact that Venezuela embraces a very large proportion, I think two-thirds, of the colony of British Guiana, including a considerable quantity of territory that is settled, and that has been settled for a number of years. We have never thought, and we do not now think, that the ownership of that territory is a matter which ought to be submitted to arbitration. At the same time, with respect to the unsettled territory, we have always been willing that that should be submitted to arbitration, but it is necessary, of course, to distinguish between the two. Our view has been that at this stage arbitration is not a suitable remedy; that the first thing that has to be ascertained is the real state of the facts in respect to the past history of Venezuela, and of Spain, and of Holland in those countries, and, when the facts are fully ascertained by a Commission in which both countries have confidence, I do not myself believe that the diplomatic question that will follow will be one that will be very difficult of adjustment. When once we know what the facts are, I do not think there will be much difficulty in coming to an agreement as to their result. But even if there is, that would then be the time for applying the principle of arbitration. In order that arbitration may be satisfactory, the issue presented to it should be clean, clear, and simple, and, when we know enough of the facts to be able to say what are the precise points on which the two Governments differ on the question of boundaries, I think then the question of arbitration will probably be dealt with without difficulty and without involving—what we deprecate—exposing to the hazard of a tribunal which is comparatively untried, the long-inherited and long-possessed rights of British colonies. But the real truth is, with respect to Venezuela, it has been impossible that we should go faster than we have done, because we have not yet obtained the whole of the facts that are necessary for a decision of the case. The labour has been enormous. I shall lay another Blue-book of documents upon the Table in a few days, and I think your Lordships will see, from the Blue-book that has gone before, that the labour it has been necessary to expend in ascertaining the facts that are concealed in all these archives is so large that it could not be accomplished in a briefer time. The Commission has been pursuing its investigations, and we have offered every facility to enable them to be pursued to a satisfactory result. When, as I say, the facts have been ascertained, it will probably be easy to settle the matter by diplomacy; if not, to settle the particular issues that arise by an appeal to an arbitrator. But, my Lords, at the same time, concurrently with these negotiations, we have also raised again the negotiation which was commenced in the time of the noble Lord opposite on the subject of a general system of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain. It was terminated partly owing to the lamented death of one of the negotiators, and partly owing to a difficulty which has not yet been surmounted—the difficulty of dealing with these cases, which are so large, and which involve interests of so vital a character that Statesmen shrink from submitting them to what may be the hazards of arbitration. We have had much discussion with the United States on that point. I think the tendency of the United States Government is to desire a rapid and summary decision of this question. In our view the principle of obligatory arbitration is applied for the first time, and it is attended with considerable hazards and doubts, and we are of opinion that a circumspect and careful method of procedure is desirable. ["Hear, hear!"] We think that such machinery as an appeal or protest should be provided in one form or another, that will prevent the miscarriage of justice to the great detriment of, it may be, a large population of English colonists through any error on the part of the arbitrator who may be selected. I do not wish now to dwell on the difficulties of arbitration: it would be out of place. There are difficulties with respect to the tribunal and with respect to the law which is to be administered, but one of the difficulties which pressed upon us the most is that, the system being untried, we do not know how far an obligatory system of arbitration may not produce speculative claims—that is to say, a Government might claim that which it really had no great hope of obtaining by way of gaining popularity, or exercising pressure upon the Government which was negotiating. You might say that such claims would be dealt with by the arbitrator. Yes; but our experience is that arbitrations last sometimes for a considerable number of years. We are interested in an arbitration now in Africa which has lasted seven or eight years, and during the whole of that time any part of the frontier which is affected by the claim of a neighbouring State comes very much into the position in which, in our youth, properties that were in Chancery used to be found—namely, that the title to them was uncertain, and there was no agency which could be trusted for maintaining that property and guarding it from danger. My Lords, Mr. Olney, on behalf of the United States Government, has answered that such questions are not likely to arise between the United States and Great Britain, and, no doubt, to a great extent, that is true; but it must not be forgotten that of late years the United States has shown a disposition to adopt as its own questions affecting many Republics in South America. I do not in the least quarrel with that disposition; it is what we have done ourselves. We ourselves take an interest in the frontiers of Sweden, of Holland, of Belgium, and of Portugal. These things are matters of importance to us, and I do not deny that the United States has some right, as we have, to show an interest in the welfare of a neighbouring people; but, of course, the fact brings with it the possibility that the claims of such Powers will become a matter of arbitration, and you must regard your prospects, under an obligatory system of arbitration, as depending rather upon the average disposition of various States over the continent of America, than upon the disposition of the United States itself, which, I have no doubt, would be much more moderate. For these reasons we have exhibited very considerable caution and circumspection in these negotiations. Still, the various questions at issue are still the subject of discussion. We have been reproached for delay, but, we feel that this matter is one of such supreme importance, that an error which you may commit may affect your national interests for a long period of time, and may affect not only your own frontiers, but the frontiers of the colonies which are intrusted to your charge. These considerations have made us very anxious to be careful in every step we have taken, and we have felt that we would rather incur the charge of unnecessary delay than, by precipitation, involve ourselves in difficulties which would affect interests that ought to be so very dear to us. [*Cheers.*] For these reasons, my Lords, we have maintained these negotiations with the care and circumspection of which I have spoken, and it is also for these reasons that we have done what I mentioned at the beginning of my observations—namely, laid the Dispatches on the Table while the negotiations have been going on. We have need to know what is the trend of public opinion on these matters. We desire, in a question which is certainly not one of Party, that the best intellects that we have on both sides should apply themselves to a matter that affects the welfare of the human race in a singular degree, and especially the good relations of a State with which we so desire to be on good terms as the United States of America. Therefore we have laid the Papers on the Table, and we hope to derive, from such attention as noble Lords on both sides of the House may devote to them, much guidance with respect to the subsequent conduct of the negotiations that we have to pursue. [*Cheers.*]

### VENEZUELA, No. 3 (1896).

Further documents relating to the question of boundary between British Guiana and Venezuela. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

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## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

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### BLACKROCK AND KINGSTOWN DRAINAGE BILL.

Moved, That the Order made on the 16th day of March last,

> "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a Second time after Tuesday the 23rd day of June next,"

be dispensed with, and that the Bill be read $2^a$; agreed to; Bill read $2^a$ accordingly, and committed, the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

## LONDONDERRY IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Moved, That the Order made on the 16th day of March last,

> "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a Second time after Tuesday the 23rd day of June next,"

be dispensed with, and that the Bill be read 2ª; agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES) BILL.

Read 1ª; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners.—[No. 206.]

## WATER PROVISIONAL ORDERS BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next.

## COMPANIES BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee (with the Minutes of Proceedings) made, and to be printed.—[No. 207.]

Minutes of Evidence laid upon the Table and to be delivered out.

## PUBLIC OFFICES (SITE) BILL.

***THE EARL OF PEMBROKE** rose to move the Second Reading of this Bill. He remarked that the object of the Bill was to acquire the site known as the "Parliament Street Site"—that was, a site bounded respectively by Charles Street, Parliament Street, Great George Street, as far as the Institute of Civil Engineers, Boar's Yard, and Delahay Street. On this site the First Commissioner proposed to erect public offices, and to devote a portion of the site to the widening of Parliament Street, so as to throw the existing street back in a line with Whitehall. The Bill had passed the Second Reading in the House of Commons with no real opposition, and it was referred to a hybrid Committee in the usual way, when one new clause was added for the protection of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and an Amendment was inserted in Clause 2 with respect to the powers of the Government in taking land of this kind. The other stages of the Bill had passed in the House of Commons without any opposition. This Bill was a consequence of the Act of last year, which was entitled the Public Offices (Acquisition of Site) Act, which authorised the raising of £450,000 for the purpose, and gave Parliamentary sanction to the Scheme. The present Bill was necessary to enable the Government to purchase compulsorily, and he hoped their Lordships would assent to its Second Reading. He moved that the Bill be read a Second time.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

## EDINBURGH GENERAL REGISTER HOUSE BILL.

***THE EARL OF PEMBROKE** moved the Second Reading of this Bill. He said the Bill was one to acquire certain houses in St. James's Square, Edinburgh, situated at the back of the Register House, with a view to alter and add to the existing buildings, which were inadequate to the present requirements. Additional accommodation must be found for the records of the General Register Office, and it was proposed to find the accommodation in the rooms now occupied by the clerks in the Sasines Department. These rooms were unhealthily crowded, and were never fitted by construction to be used as offices, but they would do well for the storage of the records, and the clerks would be moved into the new houses in St. James's Square when acquired under the Bill. The Bill passed through the House of Commons without opposition, after agreement had been made to delete Clause 6 and to insert a new proviso in Clause 3. £40,000 had been voted in the Estimates this year to complete the purchase.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed for Monday next.

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## AGRICULTURAL LAND RATING BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

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## PARLIAMENTARY COSTS BILL [H.L.].

Considered in Committee (according to Order); the Amendments proposed by the Joint Committee made; Standing Committee negatived; the Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next.

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## VEXATIOUS ACTIONS BILL [H.L.].

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; and recommitted to the Standing Committee.

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## GLASGOW PARLIAMENTARY DIVISIONS BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

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## CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICT COUNCILS BILL.

Third Reading (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Monday next.

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## FISHERIES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

## RENTS IN IRELAND.

*VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN rose to ask Her Majesty's Government whether they could state the principle upon which the Irish Land Commissioners had lately reduced rents in Ireland under the second term, and explain the great disparity between the average amount of such reductions and the average fall in prices of the chief farm products since 1881. He craved that indulgence which the House always extended to one who addressed them for the first time. He, an Irish landlord, was desirous of seeing justice done between man and man in Ireland, and he was prepared to act loyally under the Land Acts as they existed. Under the Land Act of 1881 the judicial term was fixed at 15 years. The second term was now beginning, and therefore this seemed a very good time to ask under what principles the rents in Ireland were being revised? What was the cause of the Government interference with rents in the year 1881? He believed it was the abnormal depression in 1879. What happened after the passing of the Act of 1881? The tenants whose rents had been previously raised, the tenants whose rents were high, went into the Land Courts, and the Commissioners granted them 15, 20, and sometimes 25 per cent. reductions. After a year or two tenants whose rents had never been raised thought they would try their luck—that was the expression used—and they went into the Land Courts, with the result that their rents were reduced by 15 to 20 per cent. Thus the same difference or inequality remained, and constituted a grievance. In view of certain statements made in Ireland it was well to bear in mind the words of the 8th Section of the Act of 1881. That section provided that—

> "the Court, after hearing the parties, and having regard to the interests of the landlord and the tenant respectively, and considering all the circumstances of the case, holding and district, may determine what is such fair rent."

Sub-Commissioners were sent out to fix fair rents, but they received no instructions as to what constituted a fair rent, and he was informed they had never stated the mode by which they arrived at a fair rent. Suppose the net profits of a farm to be £100 per year, after allowing for tenant's improvements, etc. It was not stated how much had to be taken for rent, and he was told that up to the present no Report which had been issued by the Land Commission of the valuation of a farm gave the details of values of the various allowances made for improvements, nor did it give the gross value, so that it was impossible for any person to take up this form of Report and arrive at how the rent was fixed. As he should refer later to cases lately heard before Mr. Bailey, the Commissioner at Armagh, he would quote the words of that gentleman as reported in the *Armagh Guardian* of June 26, 1896. Mr. Bailey said :—

> "As I pointed out in Armagh, at the hearing, each case must be revalued. Now, a valuation means the application to the particular holding of a scale of value based on a consideration of the various elements that determine the rental capacity of the land. Thus, the scale of value must be based on the prices of such items of agricultural produce as are suitable to the holding in question. But price of produce is only one element. The amount of produce, the character of the seasons, the nature and quality of the soil, its elevation and aspect, its proximity to or remoteness from markets and railways, the water supply, the ease or difficulty of access to the public roads, proximity to seaweed or turbary, the price of labour, the rates and taxes, are all elements that must be taken into account."

Further on Mr. Bailey said :—

> "As all these elements that I have enumerated are liable to vary from time to time, no mere consideration of alterations in any one of them —such as alterations in prices of produce—would be sufficient or adequate."

The Commissioner referred to the scale of value. What scale of value? He referred to prices. What prices? Who fixed the prices? And were not the nature and quality of the soil, elevation, aspect, proximity, etc., taken into account on the fresh hearing? He asked whose prices the Commissioner had in mind, because he found that Mr. Bailey when examined before Mr. Morley's Committee last year, was asked—

> "Do you take the scale of prices as one of the incidents of your instructions in fixing a fair rent?"

The reply was, "No, we do not." Another witness — Colonel Bayly — said :—

> "I do not use them (the prices issued by the Land Commission), because I think they will give me practically no assistance at arriving at what a fair rent is."

Asked—

> "Do you mean to say by that that no return of prices would be of any assistance to you?"

he said, "I go so far as to say that." There was another question of importance to the landlords, and that was the principle on which rents were going to be revised. If the present reductions were to continue it meant that at least 30 or 33 per cent. of the income of the Irish landlords was to be swept away each year—of the £8,000,000 or £9,000,000 of rental something like £3,000,000 would be lost to them. He understood before the present Government came into office that if they were returned to power there would be no further inroads on the landlord's property. He wanted to know whether that policy was adhered to or whether rent reductions were to go on. If the reductions that had taken place under the second term were justified—and upon that he would express no opinion—there was no reason why the whole property of every Irish landlord should not be taken away in course of time under the Land Act of 1881. Was such a result as that contemplated by the Government, or was the policy which they declared to be theirs before their return to power to prevail? In Armagh the rents had been reduced on the second term by 33 per cent., which was a much greater average reduction than the fall in the prices of farm produce. In some cases the rent had practically disappeared. Forty cases had recently been disposed of in Armagh. The reduction on the old rents when first settled 15 years ago was 24⅖ per cent.; the reduction per cent. on the second term was no less than 33¼. He would mention one or two cases that deserved special attention. In 1858, Boyd Brown sold to James Brown a farm for £216 subject to a yearly payment to Trinity College of £5 7s. 6d. since increased 8d. to £5 8s. 2d. The area of the farm is 11 acres 1 rood 11 perches statute. In 1861, having taken three crops off the land he let to John Hughes, father of the present tenant, part of the land containing 8 acres 4 roods 25 perches statute and retained in hand 2 acres 1 rood 16 perches, a portion which being liable to floods is of little value. The letting was for 12 years and the rent was to be £13 4s. 9d., no fine or purchase money was paid. In 1876, when the 12 years' term had expired Brown wished to take up part of the lands and served a notice to quit for that purpose. A new agreement was made between the parties that Hughes should still retain the farm and pay £14 4s. 9d.—that is £1 increase. In January, 1883, the first statutory term was fixed, the judicial rent being £11. In June, 1896, the second statutory term was fixed and the judicial rent being £6. The Poor Law valuation is £9 10s., and there are no buildings. At the hearing the only improvements claimed by the tenant were making 50 perches of draining and levelling 9 perches of glen. The lands lay within a mile of Keady, which was a thriving town with linen weaving factories in and around it. Two things stood out clearly in this case:—First that the reduction upon the old rent of £14 4s. 6d. was 57·64 per cent., and that upon the first judicial rent of £11 the reduction was 45·45 per cent., and secondly that by the ordinary process of Irish land laws to-day the account between the landlord, who was himself a farmer, and very poor, and the tenant stood thus:—The interest which the tenant had acquired on eight acres was at the moderate estimate of £10 an acre worth £80. For this he had paid nothing. His rent was £6 a year. The landlord received this £6 a year and having to pay £5 8s. 2d. of it away was left with 11s. 10d. as his rent besides what he could win from about two acres of bad land liable to flooding, and say worth £20. That together with his 11s. 10d. was all he got by way of interest on his £216. In short he had been "wiped out by Act of Parliament." There was another case which he should like to mention, that known as "Cope's case." The short facts were as follows:—Cope, landlord; T. Cunningham, tenant; area 7½ statute acres, old rent £8, about 1882 first judicial rent £6—under second term judicial rent £2 12s. 6d. Five and a-half acres of this farm were described as the best of upland and the Government valuation of this part was £6 10s. The other two acres were cut out bog and were added to the holding prior to 1881. The cut out bog was very valuable land and let without difficulty for £1 1s. per acre, and he was informed the landlord had let other parts of the same bog at that rate within the last 12 months. The cases to which he had drawn attention were cases of mixed farms, and he proposed now to give some cases of grazing farms. First case, Captain Hamilton Jones, landlord; John Fawcett, tenant; area, 141·33 statute acres; old rent, £89 10s.; judicial rent fixed in 1883, £64 10s. Government valuation of rent, £64; landlord's valuation of rent, £65 16s.; second judicial rent, £46. That was a reduction of 48½ per cent. on the old rent, and a reduction of 28½ per cent. on the first judicial rent. Second case, Captain H. Jones, landlord; T. G. Taylor, tenant; area, 80 statute acres, 8 perches; old rent, £53 11s.; first judicial rent, £37; Government valuation of the land £37; landlord's valuation of the land £35 5s.; second judicial rent £25 10s., being a reduction of 52½ per cent. on the old rent, and 31 per cent. on the first judicial rent. These were grazing farms used almost entirely for the purpose of feeding store cattle, which they were capable of putting into good condition. The tenant claimed some small reclamation. The improvements were trifling in each case, and would not affect the rent much. What, therefore, caused this reduction? In each of these cases it would be noticed that the first judicial rent was the same as the Government valuation of the land, which was usually fixed lower on pasture lands. Having shown what had been the reduction of rents in Armagh, he now proposed to show the average fall in the prices of farm produce, comparing the prices of 1881–1883 with the prices of 1887–1895. Wheat fell 26·2 per cent.; oats, 4 per cent.; barley, 7·9 per cent.; flax rose 4·4 per cent.; butter fell 11·1 per cent.; pork, 4·7 per cent.; beef, 17·4 per cent.; mutton 15·8 per cent. The average fall, including flax, was 13·8 per cent. In the period from 1881–1883 to 1889–1895 only one commodity he had mentioned fell over 17 per cent., and that was wheat, which was fast disappearing. In the period from 1881–3 as compared with the year 1895, the average fall was only over 18 per cent. in two commodities—namely, wheat and pork. But when they considered the fall in farm prices they ought to take into consideration on the other side that there had also been a fall of 30 per cent. in Indian corn and artificial manure, and of nearly 20 per cent. in grass seed. It ought also to be borne in mind that in many directions there had been steady improvement in Ireland. There was, for example, the increase in live stock. Comparing the periods 1881–5 and 1886–94, they found that the number of horses and mules had risen from 568,000 to 614,000; of cattle of all classes from 4,070,000 to 4,290,000; of sheep from 3,254,000 to 4,062,000, an increase of 25 per cent.; of pigs from 1,289,000 to 1,338,000, and of poultry from 13,590,000 to 15,112,000. Another indication of increased prosperity was afforded by the deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank and the Joint Stock Banks. In 1881, the deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank were £1,645,000; in 1895, they were £5,330,000. In the Joint Stock Banks, the deposits in 1881 were £28,200,000; in 1887, they rose to £29,000,000, and in 1895 to £37,400,000. It was often said that rents had gone down in England as well as in Ireland. He did not assert the contrary, and he sympathised with English landlords whose rents had been reduced; but before they compared the position of the English landlords with that of Irish landlords, they ought to be sure that the conditions affecting the two classes were the same; and he asked, were they? The following citation from Mr. Bailey's evidence before Mr. Morley's Commission in 1895 showed the position in which Irish landlords were placed:—

> "I have found some of the best valuers will say that when a competition rent (we will suppose) would be 35s. per acre, perhaps the fair rent of that holding might be 20s. per acre."

In other words, the holding would be worth 75 per cent. over the judicial rent. Then, in answer to Question 2,757, he said,—

> "I should say that the fair rent of a holding as a rule would be roughly about two-thirds of the competition rent."

*Viscount Templetown.*

That is the farm would let for 50 per cent. over a so-called "fair rent." Colonel Bayly in his evidence, in answer to Question 3,813:—

> "How much would you deduct from that (competition rent) when fixing a fair rent on an average; would you go to the length of 30 per cent.?" replied, "at least 30 per cent. more."

Were the English landlords, he would ask, forced by a process of law to let their farms for 30 per cent. less than competition rents? Had any of the ownership of the land in England been taken from the landlord and been given to the tenants? If they took wheat, which was the principal crop upon which farmers relied for profit, they found that during the five years 1871–7 the average area per annum of wheat grown in Ireland was 197,000 acres, the total average of all cereals being 1,993,000 acres; so that, during those favourable years the cereals comprised 12·68 of wheat, while it occupied but 5·57 per cent. of the area under crops, and only 1·24 per cent. of the entire area used for agricultural and pastoral purposes. In England, however, for the same periods wheat occupied an area of 3,284,445 acres, being 43 per cent. of the cereals, 31 per cent. of the land under crops, and 13·7 per cent. of the entire area of the country used for agricultural and pastoral purposes. This was a question which affected an enormous number of the best and most loyal people of the United Kingdom; an answer to the question was awaited with very considerable interest in Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said the present reductions which were taking place under the new statutory term were creating the greatest consternation amongst the landowners in Ireland, who judged, and rightly, that if these reductions were allowed to be continued, many of them would be hopelessly ruined. The landowning class in Ireland, like many others, unfortunately, in this country also, had only a narrow margin to live upon. The landowners did not complain of the law; but they complained of the application of the law, and the way it was administered by an irresponsible body. Their chief complaint was that no record was kept as to the cause of the reductions that took place in the

Land Court, and that no reason was given to show that these reductions were in accordance with the general reduction of prices. The unfortunate landlord had no redress whatever, unless he went to appeal; and these appeals were very costly, and generally useless. He should like to read to the House part of a decision by Mr. Bailey, in the Land Court, at Armagh. Mr. Bailey said:—

> "All evident improvements are presumed to be the property of the tenant. Thus it is not necessary to prove the making of such improvements as houses and fences. They are evident, and the tenant is entitled to them without limit of time where they add to the value of the holding. The same rule applies to improvements which are not self-evident, with this difference—that, as they are not self-evident, they must be proved to exist. Drainage and reclamation are not self-evident; it must be shown that these are in existence, and that they add to the value of the holding. Once these conditions are shown, however, the presumption is that they are the property of the tenant, and he is entitled to credit for them without limitation of time."

He maintained that that judgment gave absolutely prairie value. The Chief Secretary for Ireland, in introducing the Land Bill on April 13th, said:—

> "According to the Report of the Select Committee and to the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman, improvements should be held to include not merely the work done, but also the whole increased value, which is due to the tenant's expenditure of labour and capital, in conjunction with the inherent capacity of the soil. . . . Further, both the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman and the Report of the Select Committee agree in this, that all improvements, however ancient, are to be presumed to have been made by the tenant or his predecessor in title, unless the landlord has satisfied the Court to the contrary. . . . . I say without hesitation, that these two propositions taken together reduce practically all agricultural rents in Ireland to what is called prairie value."

He did not see any difference in the principles which Mr. Gerald Balfour denounced and those laid down by Mr. Bailey; and he wished to know if Mr. Bailey's judgment met with the approval of the Government.

*VISCOUNT CLIFDEN said the two Land Acts of 1881 and 1887 had made such a mess of the whole land question in Ireland as no one could have thought would be possible when those Measures were passed. He had every objection to the Act of 1881; but the Act of 1887 was worse. He was not surprised at the way rents were cut down by the sub-Commissioners, which, after all, was a very simple question. If the sub-Commissioners did not cut down the rents the tenants would not come into Court, and if the tenants did not come into Court the sub-Commissioners would not be required. He thought he need not draw the deduction. They would hardly find an instance in which these sub-Commissioners had not cut down the rents below the poor-law valuation; and he was sure that, when they did so, in nine cases out of ten they fixed a very improper rent. In England they had had for many years very bad seasons, which had not visited Ireland, and in fact during the last dozen years in Ireland they had very little to complain of as to seasons.

*THE EARL OF ROSSE said he could fully endorse what had been said by the noble Lord who asked the question. There was, in his opinion, great danger that the case of the Irish landlords would be prejudiced by what had occurred in England, in consequence of the existence here of agricultural depression, which had induced English landlords to temporarily reduce the rents. In parts of England, agricultural depression prevailed to an enormous extent, with the result that a large number of farms were lying idle, but that was not the case in Ireland, where there was always a large demand for farms. In the north of England, near the large manufacturing towns, the rent of farms remained exactly what it was 20 years ago. These were in a great measure dairy farms. There could be no doubt that the Irish tenant-farmers were willing to pay a large sum in order to become the existing tenants, because they believed that they were about to obtain that which was once the landlord's property. Until some clear and definite principle was laid down for the guidance of the Land Commissioners, the landlord would be entirely in the hands of that irresponsible body. This question was of far greater importance to Irish than to English landlords, because the former had not, as the latter had, other sources of income than that of the land. When the Irish landlord found himself unable to meet his expenses, he could not let his house or his sporting rights, as an English landlord could do. ["Hear, hear!"]

*THE EARL OF WINCHILSEA said that he thought that it would not be right that only Irish landlords should take part in this Debate, because it appeared to him that the question involved affected the foundation upon which all property rested. He hoped that Her Majesty's Government would give due weight to the remarks that had fallen from the noble Viscount who had brought this subject under the notice of the House. The noble Viscount had addressed their Lordships in a speech of peculiar moderation, and he had supported his arguments by figures of undoubted accuracy. The noble Viscount had not come forward as the champion of the landlords' rights, but had placed before the House the views of the tenants with great impartiality. He trusted that Her Majestey's Government would not think that this subject had been brought forward in a hostile spirit towards themselves. ["Hear, hear!"] It appeared to him that the landlords in Ireland had been reduced to the position of mere rent-chargers on what was once their own property, and that the actual property in the land had been, to a great extent, transferred from the landlords to the tenants. In England we had never thought it right to interfere by law with the amount of a rent-charge, however onerous. It must be remembered that very large reductions of rent had already been made in Ireland, and it was, therefore, unfair to still further reduce the rents except on the one ground of a fall in prices of agricultural produce. If it were true, as the noble Viscount had stated, that an incoming tenant in Ireland would give more for the right to occupy a holding at the existing rent than he would for the freehold, could it be said that the holding was over-rented? He doubted, however, whether, under the existing system, the incoming tenant benefited by any reduction of rent, because he would have to pay a larger sum for the right of occupation in consequence of it, and the interest on the extra price he would have to pay would more than equal the amount of the reduction. ["Hear, hear!"] In his opinion, the position of the Irish agricultural tenant had very distinctly improved during the last 15 years. It was true, as was stated by the noble Viscount, that there had been a fall in prices to the extent of 13 per cent., but that was no reason why rents should be reduced by 30 or 40 per cent. He wanted to know by what authority the Land Commissioners, who were given certain exceptional powers to use for one purpose, were able to use them for quite another, and that a predatory and confiscatory purpose. ["Hear, hear!"] Her Majesty's Government could not shelter themselves in regard to this matter under the plea that the existing legislation had been carried through Parliament by noble Lords opposite, because they were now the executive Government of the country, and it was their business to see that persons who had certain powers given them for one purpose did not use them for other purposes. It was impossible to suppose that, in these days of rapid communication, what was done in Ireland would not affect England, and that these object-lessons in constant tampering with the security of property would not bear fruit in this country. His object had always been to teach the tenant to rely upon self-help, rather than to trust to agitation to get his rent reduced. Agreeing, as he did, with what the noble Marquess at the head of Her Majesty's Government had said on the Motion for the Third Reading of the Cattle Diseases Bill—namely, that the great object of Parliament should be to attract capital to the land—he wished to know how it was possible to attract capital to the land if they gave to Commissioners the power to do away with the only security which capital had—namely, that rent should be punctually paid? The way in which this matter had been brought forward would convince everyone that the Irish landlords took a fair and reasonable view of the situation. They only desired to know whether the reductions effected by the Sub-Commissioners were being granted on the principle of taking as a basis the fall in the value of produce, or whether they were simply perpetrating what was no more nor less than highway robbery under the forms of law? That was the question the noble Viscount had addressed to the Government.

*THE EARL OF RANFURLY said that the answer to the noble Lord's question was that all Orders by the Irish Land Commission fixing judicial rents for a second statutory term had been made in a judicial capacity. Almost all of those hitherto made had been made by the Sub-Commission Courts, and if the parties were dissatisfied with them, an appeal lay to the Land Commission. Her Majesty's Government had no control over these decisions, nor any right to require an explanation of the principle on which they had been based. He wished to say, personally that he had heard, on what he believed to be good authority, that many of the cases referred to were to be appealed against, and therefore he thought that in the circumstances it would be hardly right for him to make any remarks upon the subject. He certainly felt with the noble Viscount in his wish to know on what basis the rents were fixed. As an Irish landlord himself, he had hitherto personally avoided going into the Land Court except in three or four isolated cases, and he was strongly of opinion that that goodwill which ought to exist between landlords and their tenants was better maintained without the intermediary, if possible, of the law.

*THE EARL OF MAYO said he did not know whether their Lordships were satisfied with the answer of the noble Earl. For his part, he was not the least satisfied. It was the same old story that had been going on since 1883. In a Debate in that year, raised by the late Marquess of Waterford, the Duke of Argyll pointed out that the Commissioners took this ground :—"We are judicial persons and you have no right to inquire into our decisions." In 1896 the same sort of answer was given. The Duke of Argyll said :—

> "Parliament had committed to three gentlemen absolute and uncontrolled power over the whole agricultural property of the Irish people. These gentlemen had not a single principle to guide them; but were vested with absolute discretion to redistribute property in Ireland as they pleased. He said respectfully that the Land Court was not a court of law, but it was a legal court. It was a court which administered by the will of Parliament the absolute discretion of three individual men. Under these circumstances their Lordships had a right and the public had the right, to inquire into the principles upon which the Commissioners were acting."

That was in 1883, and in 1896 the same thing was going on. What was to be the outcome of it? He only hoped that when the Land Bill came up for discussion in that House, their Lordships would hear something more about the principle on which the Commissioners proceeded. The only principle, so far as he could see, was the fall in prices, and that fall had not been sufficient to admit of the enormous reductions in rent that had been made. It seemed to him that the Irish Office had a sort of cut-and-dried answer to every question put about Ireland. He objected to that sort of thing. Noble Lords spent a good deal of time in discussing their wrongs, and they would like to have a little more attention paid to them. He would certainly raise the question when the Land Bill came on, and he hoped noble Lords would support him.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE) said noble Lords could scarcely have thought it probable, in view of the Notice on the Paper, that his noble Friend would be expected to enter into a general discussion upon the intricacies of the land legislation of the last few years. His noble Friend had given, as it seemed to him, the only answer of which the circumstances admitted. He was asked whether he could state the principle on which the Sub-Commissioners had lately further reduced judicial rents. Those rents had not yet been finally reduced. It was yet to be seen whether the reductions were confirmed by the Court of Appeal. Until the result of the appeals was known, no one was in a position to say that the Courts had reduced those rents to the extent of which noble Lords had complained. His noble Friend was perfectly correct in stating that it was not within the province of Her Majesty's Government to interfere with the action of judicial tribunals. The Commissioners were a tribunal constituted under Statute, and it was, he conceived, altogether unconstitutional to hold that their decisions should be from time to time scrutinised and reviewed by the Government of the day. Obviously, the proper course, if noble Lords thought the law required amendment, was to raise the question of the amendment of the law. A Bill for the purpose of amending the Land code was now before Parliament, and would no doubt come before their Lordships' House in due time.

That would surely be the proper moment for considering whether any change in the law was necessary.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN said that the answers of the Government had caused in him profound regret. He did not consider they dealt with the question he had raised sufficiently. Appeals could only be brought upon points of law, and not upon the point of value. A man might have his rents reduced 80 or 90 per cent., and yet he would not appeal unless a point of law was involved.

THE EARL OF ARRAN thought the real point had been evaded. If the principles which pervaded the new Land Bill were in force there would be some basis on which to go as to the decisions of the Courts. At present the only conceivable basis was the fall in prices, and whereas the fall in prices had been only 13 to 15 per cent., the reductions in rent had reached 40 per cent. There was no reason for these reductions. He would like to point out that if, as he hoped would be the case one of these days, a turn came in the tide of agricultural affairs, the landlords in England would get their share of the increased prosperity, whereas in Ireland they would never get it. Another point that had not been touched on was very important. As a general rule, during the period through which they had passed, the fall in prices had been, to a very great degree, caused by very abundant harvests. Therefore, although prices had diminished, a good deal of the produce which the tenant consumed himself had been gathered in such quantities that he had fed himself very cheaply.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (LORD HALSBURY) said the noble Lord had propounded a problem which it was absolutely impossible for Her Majesty's Government to solve. The question he had put was upon what principle the Irish Land Commissioners had lately reduced rents in Ireland? The noble Lord knew perfectly well that, rightly or wrongly, the difficulty of deciding what was a fair rent had been placed by Parliament in the hands of certain persons. Did the noble Lord think Her Majesty's Government could go to those persons who had been invested with that responsibility and ask them upon what principle they had proceeded? If any Member of the Government did so, he had a strong suspicion that he would receive a very short answer. He would probably be informed by the judicial person that he was acting under the direction of Parliament, and by Parliamentary authority, and that an attempt to interfere by the Government for the time being with the judicial discretion invested in him was so unconstitutional and improper that he was much surprised at any Member of the Government venturing to do so. If the noble Lord was right that there could not be an appeal on what he might call the substance of the matter, if upon this question of fair rent, as to what was law and what was fact was certainly beyond his judicial experience, he thought there ought to be an appeal that there was not now; that was a fair matter to be raised, and if the noble Lord thought it right, to introduce a Bill on the subject. But what he would point out was that the Government were as powerless as the noble Lord himself to discern what were the principles upon which the Commissioners had acted. The wisdom of Parliament had confided to them that duty, and the Government could not be expected to dive into the minds of those Commissioners and find out what were the principles on which they had proceeded. What the noble Lord really meant was that the decisions were very wrong, and that the Commissioners ought not to have arrived at those decisions by reason of the contrasts that had been made between the fall of prices and the reduction of rents. Be it so, but Parliament had set up that tribunal, and that House was not a Court of Appeal in which that question could be properly discussed. If any future legislation was brought forward in that House in which this question arose, as both the noble Lords seemed to assume would be the case, then would be the opportunity of pointing out what was the defect in the law as it stood, and what were the Amendments they would suggest.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION BILL [H.L.].

Committee of the Whole House, which stands appointed for Tuesday next, put off to Thursday next.

House adjourned at Five minutes past Six o'clock, to Monday next, a Quarter before Eleven o'clock.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Friday, 17th July 1896.*

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## FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Paper [presented 16th July] to be printed.—[No. 303.]

## LUNACY

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.

Copy of Fiftieth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor [by Act], to be printed.—[No. 304.]

## POLICE AND SANITARY REGULATIONS BILLS.

Special Report brought up and read; Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.—[No. 305.]

Minutes of Proceedings to be printed.—[No. 305.]

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## *QUESTIONS.*

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## METRIC SYSTEM.

**SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE** (Exeter): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will introduce this Session a Bill to deal with the metric system, in order that chambers of commerce and other parties interested may have sufficient time during the Recess to consider the proposals of Her Majesty's Government on this subject?

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE** (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon) replied that he would be glad to introduce the Bill, but without any intention of proceeding with it this Session.

## SPANCILHILL FAIR (COUNTY CLARE).

**MR. J. R. CAREW** (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether a patent was ever granted for the holding of a fair at Spancilhill, in the county Clare, on the 23rd and 24th June in each year, and to whom and when it was granted; and whether the patent granted in the reign of James the First for the holding of a fair at Spancilhill, otherwise Muckinish, on the 14th September of each year, can be utilised for the purpose of the fair on the 23rd and 24th June; and, if not, under what authority is the fair of the 23rd and 24th June held?

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND** (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I believe that the patent mentioned in the hon. Member's Question is for the holding of a fair on the 14th September of each year, and that it was granted to Mr. Valentine Blake in the month of June 1621. A recent judgment of the Vice Chancellor of Ireland has apparently recognised that the fair authorised by this patent may be held on the 23rd and 24th June in each year, inasmuch as he has granted an injunction, after full argument, restraining any interference with the fairs held on those latter dates.

## CAVAN AND LEITRIM LIGHT RAILWAY.

**MR. J. P. FARRELL** (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the necessary preliminaries for the capitalisation of the funds of the Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway are yet completed; and, if so, when the cesspayers may expect to derive benefit from the Act passed last year to capitalise the respective shares of Cavan and Leitrim, so as to reduce the poundage levied in these counties at present.

**THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY** (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The Board of Works have heard nothing further from the Company or the Grand Jury with respect to the commutation of the Treasury liability in respect of this line.

## LIMERICK COUNTY ASYLUM.

**MR. J. P. FARRELL**: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether he is aware that within the past few weeks the newly-elected Mayor of Limerick has been, in accordance with custom, appointed a Governor of the Limerick County Asylum; (2) will he explain why, when making out the annual list of Governors for 1896, the present Lord Lieutenant refused to appoint the newly-created Bishop of Ardagh in succession to his predecessor, although until this present year the Bishop of Ardagh has always been appointed a Governor of the Mullingar Asylum; and (3), will the precedent of the Limerick case be now followed in this case?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The Mayor of Limerick was recently appointed a member of the Board of Governors of the Limerick Asylum, a vacancy having been created by the death of a former member. As regards the second paragraph I have nothing to add to my replies to the questions addressed to me on the 12th March and 18th June last by the hon. Member, in which I stated that, on the occurrence of a vacancy among the County Longford representatives on the Mullingar Asylum Board, the Lord Lieutenant would be happy to favourably consider the application made on behalf of the most Rev. Dr. Hoare.

## GRAND JURY (COUNTY MONAGHAN.)

Mr. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether he is aware that the associated cesspayers at the baronial sessions for the district of Ballyboy voted in January and in May this year the sum of £60 for the concreting of a footpath between M'Manus' Corner and the Commercial Hotel, Ballyboy, and that the Grand Jury of Monaghan refused for the past two assizes to pay the money voted by the cesspayers of Ballyboy; and, (2) whether he will cause this much-needed work in the town of Ballyboy to be carried out?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: A presentment was passed on two occasions, though not unanimously, at the Baronial Sessions, in favour of the particular work mentioned, but the presentment was opposed by cesspayers before the Grand Jury, and was rejected on the ground that the existing footpath was in very good order and that the proposed expenditure would cause an unnecessary addition to the county rates. I have no power to entertain the proposal in the last paragraph of the question.

Mr. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether he is aware that the Secretary to the Grand Jury of the county Monaghan, charges the road contractors of the barony of Cremorne 8d. per tender form; (2) whether this is a legal charge; and (3), whether he can say if it is the money of the cesspayers that pays for the printing of the tender forms sold to road contractors in county Monaghan?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I am informed by the Secretary to the Grand Jury that the fact is as stated in the first paragraph. The Statutory fee for a form of tender is sixpence, and, in explanation of the additional charge of twopence, the Secretary to the Grand Jury assigns reasons similar to those mentioned by me on the 18th June, when I replied to a previous question of the hon. Member on the same subject. As to the last paragraph, I am informed that the sum of sixpence covers the cost of clerical assistance employed in filling the forms of tender with particulars as to specifications, etc., and that the cost of printing the forms is defrayed by the County.

## HOLYROOD PALACE.

Mr. MASSEY-MAINWARING (Finsbury, Central): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, what is the present condition of the Stuart and other relics in Holyrood Palace; are some portions from time to time carried away by visitors anxious to possess objects of historic interest; with a view to preserving the contents of Holyrood from gradual decay, will the Government appoint experts to report on the historic objects therein contained; and whether some of the most interesting relics could be put in glass cases?

The FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): This is a question which concerns my Department. Many of the relics referred to by my hon. Friend are in a decaying state from age; but they are all taken the greatest care of. Such as can be fittingly preserved under glass are so protected; and larger objects, such as bedsteads, are railed off from the public. They are carefully watched, and it is not believed that portions are being carried away by visitors. Some tapestry of no special interest, in one of the rooms, which was placed there about 40 years ago, was being cut; but it has been protected by wirework for the past three years. There does not appear to be any need for an expert report.

## LICENSE DUTIES (DUBLIN).

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) what is the annual Crown revenue from pawnbrokers' licences in Dublin; (2) whether there is any similar tax in the British Empire; (3) does the Crown also draw a revenue from the Hackney cars and tramcars of Dublin, and to what annual amount; (4) is there any parallel for this in other cities; and (5) will he provide, in the forthcoming Irish Rating Bill, for the release by the Treasury to the Dublin Corporation of these licence duties, in aid of the local rates?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The average annual revenue from pawnbrokers' licences in Dublin in the last five financial years has been £4,853. I have no information regarding the second paragraph. As to the third paragraph, the revenue from hackney vehicles, including horse trams, has averaged £3,531 in each of the last five years. A similar revenue, I understand, is derived in London. In reply to the last paragraph, I cannot give an undertaking to deal with the matter in the Bill dealing with the equivalent grant accruing to Ireland in connection with the corresponding grants for Great Britain.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether the Government regard the Act under which they extract £4,000 a year from the Dublin pawnbrokers as a public or a private Act?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: In answer to that I can only say that I believe the Act dates from pre-Union times.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Is it possible for the Dublin Corporation to appropriate this by a private Act of their own?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I cannot answer that without notice.

## DRAINAGE AND RECLAMATION WORK (IRELAND).

Mr. MAURICE HEALY (Cork City): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state what rate of annual instalment per cent. (including interest and sinking fund) is charged to tenants in Ireland on loans issued by the Board of Works for works of drainage and reclamation on their holdings?

Mr. HANBURY: Loans to tenants for the drainage and reclamation of their holdings are discharged by payment of £6 10s. 0d. per cent. per annum for 22 years. The charge of £6 10s. 0d. per cent. per annum is paid in half-yearly moieties and includes interest at £3 8s. 3d. per cent.

## ARREST OF BRITISH SEAMEN.

Mr. W. S. ROBSON (South Shields): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, what report he has received as to the seizure and imprisonment of four British sailors of the steamship *Balgownie* by the Spanish Authorities at Ponnan on the 31st May last; whether, although no charge whatever was preferred against some of them, while the prisoners were chained together in gaol before trial, two of them (including one of the admittedly innocent men) were violently assaulted and beaten with a loaded stick by an official in the presence of Spanish officers and civil guards; whether he will make further inquiries; and, if the above facts are established, whether he will take steps to obtain compensation for the innocent man thus assaulted, and to insure that the officials in question shall be reprimanded, so as to prevent the repetition of similar assaults on British sailors in Spanish ports?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. George Curzon, Lancashire, Southport): A report has been received from Her Majesty's Vice Consul at Carthagena from which it appears that while the boatswain and carpenter of the *Balgownie* were arrested by the Spanish Authorities at Ponnan for an assault when slightly the worse for liquor, upon a Spanish Carabinero, who had been placed by the Customs' Authorities on board, two other sailors of the vessel, who had nothing to do with the affair were similarly arrested, but subsequently discharged, no formal complaint having been brought against them. No complaint as to the ill-treatment alleged in the question appears to have been made to the Vice Consul by the men themselves or by the captain on their behalf; nor is there any reference in the Vice Consul's report to the alleged assault. I have, however, called for a further report in order to investigate the matters in dispute.

## FAIR RENT APPLICATIONS (IRELAND).

MR. M. McCARTAN (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will suggest to the Land Commission, for the convenience of judicial tenants in Ireland now entitled to have fair rents fixed in respect of the second judicial term, the desirability of publishing lists of the "recorded" applications under the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881; whether he is aware that in the lists of cases printed for hearing before the Land Commission for some years after the passing of the Act of 1881 the record number was published therein in every recorded case; and whether, considering that a large number of tenants are in doubt as to their eligibility to make application now for the second term, he will advise the publication without delay of the lists of cases where the applications were recorded?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have very little to add to the statement already made by me in reply to the hon. Gentleman's previous question of the 23rd June on this subject. For the first fifteen months after the passing of the Act of 1881 no special reference was made to the recorded cases in the list published of cases set down for hearing. Subsequently for some years the letter "R" was printed opposite the entry of the "recorded" cases for the guidance of the Assistant Commissioners in dealing with such cases. The lists referred to, therefore, do not afford sufficient information from which to prepare the lists suggested. If any tenant is in doubt whether the application made in 1881 to have a fair rent fixed in respect of this holding was "recorded" or not, he has only to apply to the Land Commission on the subject, and every possible information will be afforded to him.

MR. McCARTAN asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that tenants when applying to the Land Commission for copies of the judicial orders were required to give particulars as to the date and place of hearing and, that they were frequently unable to do this?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he did not know whether the difficulty which the hon. Member suggested arose, but he had already explained that, even if it were possible to segregate those cases, it would involve an enormous amount of labour out of all proportion to the result.

MR. McCARTAN: Do I understand that it is on account of the labour it cannot be done?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: That is one important reason; I do no say that it is the only one.

MR. McCARTAN: I shall refer to the matter again.

## CURRAGH CAMP.

MR. C. J. ENGLEDOW (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, will he explain for what purpose and under what terms does a man called Hanley hold possession of the house and premises erected on the land enclosed at the Curragh Camp some years ago for the purposes of a sewage farm; and, whether it is in accordance with the provisions of the Curragh Act that portions of the commonage are enclosed and allowed to be occupied by private persons?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: This appears to be a question for the War Department to deal with. Perhaps the hon. Member will repeat it on Monday and then address it to my hon. Friend the Under Secretary of State for War.

## NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS (IRELAND).

MR. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will explain why it is that the average salary paid to national school teachers in Ireland is £90 per annum, whereas teachers in the same position in England receive on an average about £121 per annum; and, whether he will consider the necessity of having the pay of the teachers in England and Ireland calculated on the same basis?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: All the information I have on the subject will be found in my reply to a similar question addressed to me on the 12th March last by the hon. Member for North Monaghan.

### CUSTOMS OFFICE (DUBLIN).

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is intended to remove the Customs Office from the long room to less convenient premises; whether he is aware that the long room has been used by the merchants for more than a century for the marking-out of entries, payment of duties, reports, and clearances of ships inwards and outwards; whether he has received any intimation of this proposed change; and whether he will give consideration to the views of the merchants and traders affected thereby?

MR. HANBURY: I assume that this Question alludes to the Dublin, not the London, office. As far as the Board of Customs are informed, the Board of Works in Dublin have it in contemplation to make certain alterations in the building known as the Custom House at that Port, with the object of accommodating, to a greater extent than at present, the public Departments, other than the Customs, which are at present located in that building. These alterations will, it is thought, necessitate the removal of the Customs long room from the first floor to the ground floor, but in the plans, which are still under consideration, every care is being taken to insure that the convenience of merchants and other members of the public who transact business with the Customs shall not be in any way interfered with; and it may be assumed that, so far from the change resulting in inconvenience, it is probable that the removal from the first to the ground floor may in the end prove generally acceptable. As the hon. Member's question only appeared on the Paper to-day, I have not had time to obtain any information direct from the Board of Works.

MR. FIELD asked if the right hon. Gentleman would take into consideration the views of those interested in the matter who had sent in a memorial on the subject?

MR. HANBURY replied that he had not received any memorial, but he had no doubt the Board of Works would attend to the matter.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) hoped that in the alterations made, the right hon. Gentleman would take care that the external form of the Custom House was not interfered with.

### IRISH AND AMERICAN MAILS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether an opportunity will be given to the Mails Committee and the Council of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce to have a conference with the postal authorities previous to the arrangement of the time table regarding the Irish and American mails; and whether any provision has been made for third-class accommodation?

MR. HANBURY: Under the new arrangement of the mail service between London and Kingstown in connection with the proposed acceleration, the down night mail will leave Euston at 8.45 p.m. instead of 8.20 p.m., and arrive at Kingstown at 6.7 a.m., instead of 6.42 a.m.; and the up night mail will leave Kingstown at 8.20 p.m. instead of 7.50 p.m., and reach Euston at 5.50 a.m. instead of 6.15 a.m. As regards the day mail, it is intended that the dispatch from Euston shall continue to be made at 7.15 a.m., the arrival at Kingstown taking place at 5.5 p.m. instead of 5.35 p.m. In the other direction, the dispatch from Kingstown will continue to be made at 7.20 a.m., the arrival at Euston taking place at 5.15 p.m. instead of 5.45 p.m. If, however, the Dublin Chamber of Commerce desire it, an opportunity for conferring with the Department will be given to them. No provision has been made for the conveyance of third-class passengers by the Irish mail trains.

Mr. FIELD asked what amount of time would be saved to the London and North Western Company by that arrangement?

Mr. HANBURY: If the hon. Gentleman will put the Question on the Paper, I shall see.

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.) asked whether the representative of the Cork Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies in the south of Ireland would be allowed at the proposed conference?

Mr. HANBURY: That I cannot say; but I gather from the information supplied me that everything will be done to meet the convenience of all those interested.

## LAND TAX.

Mr. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the estimated loss to the Imperial Treasury of the operation of Clause 31 of the Finance Bill reducing the Land Tax to one shilling in the pound; how much of that loss will arise in England and Scotland respectively; whether, following the precedent of the Scotch Agricultural Rating Bill, abolishing the Burgh Land Tax out of money allocated to Scotland, he will meet any loss to the Imperial Treasury, in the case of Scotland out of Scotch money or a tax levied in Scotland, and in the case of England out of English money or a tax levied in England; and, whether, if the loss is to be borne by the Imperial Treasury, he will arrange for Scotland and Ireland receiving their proper equivalent grant?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): The loss is estimated at from £90,000 to £100,000, but no very accurate estimate can be given. It will arise almost entirely in England, and mainly in the south and east of England. I am not prepared to admit that where the remission of any tax affects one portion of the United Kingdom more than another the portions less affected are to be compensated.

## DESTRUCTION OF NATIONAL HALL (COUNTY DOWN).

Mr. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Louth (Mr. T. M. Healy), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that an Orange party, after the recent celebrations, set fire to the Sheepbridge (County Down) National Hall, and that the hall has been totally destroyed; and whether the Government intend taking any action in the matter?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I am informed that the Sheepbridge National Hall consists of a small thatched cabin, which is rented for the sum of £2 a year, and that on the morning of the 14th instant the thatch was destroyed by fire. An Orange demonstration was held near Newry, about three-and-a-half miles distant from the scene, on the day preceding the fire, but I have no proof before me that the burning was perpetrated by Orangemen. The owner of the cabin intends to lodge a claim for £60 compensation for the injury to the cabin. The police are using every endeavour to trace the perpetrator of the burning.

Mr. MACALEESE: Does the right hon. Gentleman think it any mitigation of the outrage that the hall was of little value?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

## DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT BESSBROOK.

Mr. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenent of Ireland whether he has received a Report from the Constabulary at Camlough or Newry, or from any other source, to the effect that on Sunday the 12th July instant certain Orangemen cursed the Pope at the Roman Catholic Church in Bessbrook, and used offensive language to females who were there; also that three Orangemen on Monday the 13th July instant, fired shots at a Roman Catholic name O'Hanlon; and, have any arrests been made in connection with these outrages?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I am informed that on the 12th July one Orangeman, who had arrived in Bessbrook on that date from Glasgow, suffering from the effects of drink, did indulge in offensive language both towards the Pope and to women who were there. He was taken away by three other Protestants who are willing to give evidence of his misconduct, and he will be summoned to the next Petty Sessions for being drunk and disorderly. It is not a fact that three Orangemen fired shots at a man named O'Hanlon on the 13th instant. It appears, however, that two shots were fired by one Brown, though O'Hanlon cannot say whether they were fired at him. Brown is not licensed to carry firearms, and the question of proceeding against him for carrying unlicensed arms is now under consideration.

## CRETAN DISTRESS FUND.

Mr. EDWARD MORTON (Devonport): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to a letter which appeared in *The Times* newspaper on Tuesday last, purporting to be written by direction of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and addressed to the Secretary of the Committee of the Cretan Distress Fund, in which it is alleged that Mr. Biliotti, Her Majesty's Consul in Crete, had made arrangements, by order of Her Majesty's Government, and with the consent of the Turkish Vali, himself to distribute relief to those who have suffered during recent events in the island, but that objection had been taken by the Powers; and that, in consequence, Lord Salisbury had ordered Mr. Biliotti to postpone his visit to the affected districts; and, whether Her Majesty's Government can hold out any hope that the difficulties raised by the Powers will be overcome, and the distribution of relief proceeded with without delay?

Mr. CURZON: The letter to which the hon. Member refers was addressed to the Secretary of the Committee of the Cretan Distress Fund by direction of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Her Majesty's Government have not as yet heard that the representatives at Constantinople of the other great Powers have withdrawn their objections to relief being distributed to the Cretans by Her Majesty's Consul. The Committee of the Distress Fund have intimated that they hope to be able to dispatch an agent of their own to Canea for the purpose.

Mr. MORTON asked whether Her Majesty's Government were taking steps to induce the Powers to withdraw their objections?

Mr. CURZON: No, Sir. The objections of the Powers were clearly stated. They think that the position of Her Majesty's Consul would be liable to misinterpretation if he visited those districts, and I am not aware that any steps on our part would remove that impression.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) asked whether the Government would in future either concert with or take the instructions of the Powers before issuing such directions to their Consuls?

[No reply was given to the Question.]

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: I must ask for an answer to that Question.

*Mr. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of the Question on the Paper.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: I give notice that I will ask it on Monday.

## SOUDAN (COST OF MILITARY OPERATIONS).

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any information has been received from the Egyptian Government as to the expenditure already incurred in connection with the military operations in the Soudan; whether this expenditure is still being defrayed out of the ordinary revenue of Egypt; and, whether it is anticipated that any proportion of the cost of the expedition, beyond the extraordinary expenses of the Indian garrison at Suakin, will have to be charged to the British Exchequer?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: No information has been received from the Egyptian Government with regard to the expenditure already incurred in connection with the military operations in the Valley of the Nile. It is presumed that this expenditure is being defrayed out of the various moneys at the disposal of the Egyptian Government, including the advance of £500,000 made by the Caisse de la Dette Publique. The question as to whether any proportion of the cost of the expedition, beyond what I have already stated to the House, will be borne by the British Exchequer is reserved for future consideration and adjustment between the British and Egyptian Governments.

### DONINGTON EDUCATION SCHEME.

MR. HARRY POLLOCK (Lincoln, Spalding): I beg to ask the hon. Member for the Thirsk Division, as representing the Charity Commissioners—(1) whether, as the result of the Amendment carried in this House to the Donington Education scheme, the new trustees (appointed under that part of the scheme which was not rejected) will in due course come into office; (2) whether it will be competent for a majority of such trustees to apply for a new scheme; and (3) whether it will be competent for the trustees and the Charity Commissioners in that event to provide under such new scheme that the grammar school, which has been in existence for 170 years, shall not be destroyed, and also to provide that the funds bequeathed under the will of John Cowley for the endowment of the said school may be prudently expended in the interests of education at Donington?

MR. GRANT LAWSON (York, N.R., Thirsk): The answer to the first two paragraphs of my hon. Friend's question is in the affirmative. To the third paragraph the answer is that it will be competent for the Charity Commissioners, acting, as usual, after consultation with the trustees to make a new scheme, either resuscitating the grammar school, or prudently expending in other ways the endowments in the interests of education at Donington.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS (SCOTLAND).

MR. W. THORBURN (Peebles and Selkirk): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Commission to inquire into Light Railways will hold their sittings, in cases in Scotland, in the localities where light railways are desired to be constructed?

MR. RITCHIE: The Light Railway Commissioners will hold local inquiries, and will, no doubt, select the place most convenient to all who are parties to the application.

*Chancellor of the Exchequer.*

### TWELVE O'CLOCK RULE.

MR. HENRY LABOUCHERE (Northampton) asked whether the First Lord of the Treasury would be good enough to put the terms of his Motion in reference to the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule on the Paper early, so that Amendments could be put down to it tonight if anyone so desired.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have not got the terms of the Motion ready. My intention was to announce it at the adjournment of the House, when I am afraid it would be too late to put down Amendments, but I will try to meet the wishes of hon. Gentlemen.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): Can the right hon. Gentleman inform us whether the terms of his Motion are the same as the terms of the Motion for the year 1894?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I would not like to commit myself to that, but I will let the right hon. Gentleman know, or any other hon. Gentleman that desires the information, what the terms are as early as possible.

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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### SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee:—

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

(EIGHTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.)

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS II.

£26,991, to complete the sum for Chief Secretary for Ireland,—Offices.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.), in rising to move a reduction of £2,000 in respect of the salary of the Chief Secretary, said that, if the Chief Secretary did all the work that he was expected to do, he would deserve a very much larger salary than he received. The Chief Secretary was expected to do the work of at least four or five men. But the complaint against the present occupant of the office was in reference, not so much to what he had done, as to what he had not done. The right hon. Gentleman ought to be in the Cabinet. The custom of including the Chief Secretary in the Cabinet had become almost a fixed tradition; and in departing from that custom the present Government had made a great mistake. There was in the House of Commons only one Minister who was in any way responsible for the Government of Ireland, and it might be expected that he would be in the Cabinet; because the task of governing Ireland was neither easy nor simple, and it was very little understood by the other Members of the Government. It was preposterous to suppose that the Chief Secretary could adequately convey his views and desires to the Cabinet unless he was present at the meeting. The result of the present arrangement was manifest in the conduct of Irish business. A system had been introduced into Irish affairs, against which he must protest, and that was the "take it or leave it" system. There had been two important Irish Measures introduced this Session, as well as several minor measures, and these had been introduced after 12 o'clock, with the warning that they must not be discussed, or, as in the case of the Land Bill, with the warning that even reasonable discussion would cause the Bill to be withdrawn. This plan was not fair to the Irish people nor to the House; and the protests against the policy were not confined to Nationalists. The supporters of the Government in Ireland had used even stronger language.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I do not think the conduct of business can be discussed on this occasion. It is the Acts of the Minister which are under consideration.

MR. DILLON said that for a long time Irishmen had had cause to complain of the policy of the Government in proposing no remedial measures to meet Irish grievances, until those grievances had become burning. The *Dublin Daily Express*, one of the chief supporters of the Government, condemned this policy. Then as to the relations of the Irish Government towards primary education. It was now four years ago since the Irish Government, when the right hon. Member for North Leeds was Chief Secretary, addressed a communication to the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, directing their attention to the fact that there were certain schools which were efficiently discharging the duties of primary education, and which were excluded from all participation in Government aids and grants. It was a remarkable fact that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Leeds laid it down in the Debate in the House of Commons that one essential condition of extending Government assistance to Voluntary religious schools in Ireland was that they should accept a conscience clause. The Commissioners of National Education agreed to accept a conscience clause, and they framed or altered rules to meet the views of the Irish Government. Then a long correspondence took place between the Chief Secretary of the succeeding Liberal Government, who adhered to the policy of his predecessor—namely, that a conscience clause was a necessary condition precedent to assistance being given. Then after three or four years another Irish Secretary appeared on the scene, and he repudiated the policy of his two predecessors and said that, in the event of a grant being given, it was to be given without a conscience clause. That was an instance of vacillation which was calculated to destroy all confidence of the people in the machinery of Irish Government. The Government had succeeded in bringing in a Bill relating to education which every human being condemned, and then they withdrew it. This was the result of the efforts of a strong Unionist Government which was to hold the balance even between all parties in Ireland. Having successfully drafted a Bill which satisfied nobody, they proceeded to throw it over. The action of the Government was an infringement of all the principles they had laid down when they were wooing English and Scotch constituencies of giving to Ireland a strong and impartial Government. Government such as theirs was no Government at all; it was chaos. Their policy was a policy of doing nothing until a question became so burning that they were forced to act. A more mischievous policy could not be conceived than that which was announced by the

Chief Secretary when he said that he would not have touched the education question if it had not been for resistance to the law as it stood on the part of certain towns in Ireland. That was to say, he would not have introduced a Bill because of the merits or justice of the question, but because he found insuperable obstacles in the ordinary administration of the existing law. A policy such as that, where great principles were concerned, deserved and would earn for itself the condemnation and contempt of the country.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said the individuality of the present Chief Secretary was such that it disarmed anything like hostile personal criticism, and, accordingly, he thought this was the proper time to lay before the House of Commons the anomalous position of the right hon. Gentleman. It was a matter of serious observation that, although the present Cabinet consisted of 19 Members, the Chief Secretary was not one of them, yet that exclusion was as nothing when contrasted with the anomalous character of the office itself. He would draw attention to one thing which the right hon. Gentleman did not know in reference to his own salary. The salary of the Chief Secretary was formerly £4,000 and now it was £4,425. The advance came about thus. There was a sum which used to appear in the Votes of £425 for coals for the Chief Secretary's Lodge, although the Chief Secretary used to reside at the Lodge only about 10 days in the year. Some curious questioner did not see how £425 could be expended on coals in passing 10 days in summer at Dublin unless the Chief Secretary was entertaining the whole of Dublin, and the Government, being generous, thought it would not be well to give rise to these inquiries, and accordingly the Chief Secretary was allowed an additional £425. When he tried, however, to get a hundred or two for the starving peasants in Donegal he was opposed by all the officials in Dublin Castle. Nothing was more remarkable in the office of Chief Secretary than its power and position when contrasted with its lowly state of administrative efficiency. The Irish Members had to address their questions to the "Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant," which was its proper designation, because the right hon. Gentleman was in reality a private Secretary to the Viceroy. That arrangement prevailed before the Union, but gradually the post increased in power and responsibility. The Lord Lieutenant and the Chief Secretary in Ireland managed in the English interest the Irish administration. The Chief Secretary was a subordinate official in the English Parliament, but he went over to Ireland with the Lord Lieutenant and immediately obtained a seat in the Irish Parliament for one of the rotten boroughs, and his province was simply to direct a mere system of corruption. Then the Chief Secretary and the Lord Lieutenant "communicated" with the Home Secretary, and much of the correspondence was preserved. He did not know in any memoirs more ghastly confessions of corruption, falsehood, and fraud. After the Union it was still a subordinate post, and the Duke of Wellington at one time commanded in the Peninsular War while drawing the salary as Chief Secretary.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: I fail to see exactly the appropriateness of the historical *resumé* of the hon. Member.

Mr. MACNEILL: I want to show the historical position of the Chief Secretary and to complain of his not being a Member of the Cabinet.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: It does not rest with the Chief Secretary whether he is a Member of the Cabinet or not. I do not see how the question is germane.

Mr. MACNEILL: It is germane, because he is not worth £4,425 a year unless he is a Member of the Cabinet. The Irish people wanted a Minister who was not more or less in a subordinate position, but a Cabinet Minister representing the Irish Administration, whom they could meet face to face in the House and interrogate.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: There is nothing to prevent the Chief Secretary from being a Member of the Cabinet. It does not rest with the Chief Secretary, and I do not think that any discussion of the kind can arise on this Vote; certainly Committee of Supply is not the time to raise the question.

Mr. MACNEILL said that the Chief Secretary laboured under the great disadvantage that he came to the discharge of his duties without any official experience. Formerly Mr. O'Connell, when a Chief Secretary was appointed, compared him to an apprentice to a barber who was allowed to shave provided that the customers did not raise any question if they were gashed. [*Laughter.*] He accordingly would describe the right hon. Gentleman as a prentice hand. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to have delivered himself up wholly to the judgment of the gentlemen in Dublin Castle; he had been more or less their mouthpiece. In the first speech which he delivered in August last the right hon. Gentleman, new to his office, said that he actually approached the Judges of the Land Commission with reference to the administration of judicial business. His chief objection to the administration of the right hon. Gentleman was that he did not exercise sufficiently his own judgment—that he allowed the officials of Dublin Castle to dictate to him. What the right hon. Gentleman did was to give himself up wholly to the officials and to one class of the community. The officials of Dublin Castle were the enemies of the people, and the moment the Chief Secretary attempted to do anything independently he was coldshouldered by the people of Dublin Castle. The late Chief Secretary, no doubt, set a good example in this matter, but he confidently said that until they had a Chief Secretary wholly unamenable to Dublin Castle, and who had the courage to make himself proof against its corrupt influence, there would not be much hope that the administration would be materially changed.

Mr. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) hoped the Chief Secretary would not be deterred from his duty by any remarks of the hon. Member. Speaking for the people of the North of Ireland, he could say that they were extremely thankful to him for what he had done. They had witnessed with great interest his efforts to carry through a great Land Bill, and they were most anxious that he should not be hindered in bringing his labours to a successful issue. He wished to dissociate himself from those who, while professing to be friendly, tried to prevent the business being done. He thanked the Chief Secretary for what he had done for the labourers of Ireland. He again hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would not be discouraged by the obstacles thrown in his way, but continue to do all he could impartially for the welfare and the well-being of the people of all sorts in Ireland.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said he joined in the complaint that had been made that the Chief Secretary was not in the Cabinet. He raised the question last year, and it had been raised, he recollected, many years before. Recent revelations, however, as to what was going on in the Cabinet, made him rather doubt whether there was much dignity and importance attaching to a seat in the Cabinet. It was, however, satisfactory to be assured by the Home Secretary that the Members of the Cabinet were all on speaking terms with each other. That was a great advantage, but so far as he could see the Cabinet did not seem to interfere with anything whatever. They had a splendid record during the present year, and perhaps it was just as well that the Chief Secretary was left out and was in a position of greater freedom and less responsibility in his conduct and management of Irish affairs. But there was one Department—the British Treasury—over which he wished the Chief Secretary had more control. He rose, however, chiefly to two matters connected with education. Two months ago the House had ordered the publication of the correspondence of the Bishop of Limerick with regard to the Erasmus Smith School. He went into the Library expecting to find this correspondence, but it had not been thought worth while apparently to carry out the order of the House with regard to a correspondence, which contained the gravest impeachment probably ever made against an Irish Secretary. To print it would probably cost the Treasury 7s. 6d., but the order of the House had been simply ignored. Last year he carried a Resolution on this subject, but apparently the "continuous" policy of the English Government did not apply here. If the Liberals had remained in office there was not the smallest doubt that the correspondence would have been published. What was the position? Canon Gregg, the proselytiser and souper as they regarded him, had grabbed the schools to which he had not title. When the matter came before the Education Endowments Commission they gave Canon Gregg a small amount of compensation in order to get him with decency out of the premises he had held ever since he grabbed them. As the Privy Council in Ireland was always Tory, Canon Gregg made a whip of the Orange gang of the Privy Council, and it being summer and the people mostly on their holidays, he was enabled to improve upon the compensation he got from the Education Endowment Commission, and a further Amendment was made by the Privy Council in the scheme in favour of Canon Gregg. When he (Mr. Healy) saw this, he put down a Motion excising the alteration of the Privy Council and leaving the scheme in such a shape that the sign-manual of the Viceroy could have been put to it almost at once. At the end of June or the beginning of July the late Government scurried out of office and left the scheme hanging up. He believed it was the clerks in the Irish Office who, knowing that their friends were coming into power, kept back the amended and excised scheme from Lord Houghton, who was about to quit the position of Lord Lieutenant. The present Government came in, and they allowed the scheme to lie from June or July until the Bishop of Limerick—who had never expressed any views in favour of the National Party, but who was one of the most zealous men connected with his own Church, and especially zealous against soul-grabbing and the stealing of little children out of the religion to which they belonged—on the 3rd December, 1895, wrote a letter on the subject, the House of Commons having negatived the particular portion of the scheme in the previous May. Before he quoted from the Bishop's letter, he desired to say he, personally, entirely and absolutely acquitted the Chief Secretary of anything more than mechanical action in the business. He was quite sure the right hon. Gentleman did not understand the matter, and had never heard of the Resolution of the House, which was passed at a late hour of the night. On the 3rd December, 1895, the Bishop wrote to the Chief Secretary pointing out that on the 5th July previously Her Majesty's assent was given to a Resolution of the House of Commons dealing with the scheme of education endowments for the Roxborough Road School, and as the matter had, he said, been spun out for years, he inquired what effect was being given to the excision Resolution of Parliament and when the Lord Lieutenant would signify his approval of it. In reply to that letter the Chief Secretary wrote stating that, as a result of the scheme as originally drawn having been objected to in one part by the House of Commons, it had been referred in its amended form to the Judicial Commissioners under the Educational Endowments Act for their observations, which was the course adopted in the only other similar case. On the 6th December the Bishop wrote, asking whether it was referred to the Judicial Commissioners as to the one particular point, or whether it was intended to re-open the whole case on its merits. That was a very plain question. In reply to that the right hon. Gentleman stated that only that part of the scheme relating to the Limerick Diocesan Endowment had been referred to the Commissioners to obtain their observations upon it for the information of His Excellency. He added—

> "No unnecessary delay will take place and no alteration will be made in the scheme without your Lordship and every person interested having an opportunity of making objections in writing and appearing in support of them."

The matter then rested from the 9th December until February the 8th. There was not a keener man in Ireland than Bishop O'Dwyer, and he took this reply of the right hon. Gentleman to mean that this scheme had only been referred to the Lord Lieutenant for his information. However, on the 8th February the Bishop wrote, saying—

> "To-day I have received an official communication which rather surprises me. I am informed His Excellency has decided not to approve of the scheme. That is to say, he has set it aside *in toto*, and a new draft scheme has been substituted for it."

It was to be remembered that the Chief Secretary had informed the Bishop that no alteration would be made in the scheme without his Lordship and every person interested having an opportunity of making objections in writing and appearing in support of them. What was the language of the Bishop in reference to that transaction? They were not dealing in this business with an ignorant peasant, and if this were the impression gathered of the methods of Dublin Castle and its administration by a person occupying the dignified position of a Bishop of the Catholic Church, what would be the impression created in the mind of every peasant throughout the country suffering and smarting under keen grievances? Here was the language of the Bishop to the Chief Secretary:—

> "Your letter of the 11th (February) expresses regret for a misunderstanding. I beg to assure you there has been no misunderstanding. The case is quite clear. I thought so when writing to you on the 7th, but I considered it only fair to allow for the possibility of your being able to offer some explanation of your proceedings. Your letter of the 11th disposes of that possibility, and puts it beyond all doubt and question that you have distinctly and deliberately broken your pledged word and deceived me in reference to a matter of at least local importance. I am fully alive to the gravity of the personal as well as official grounds of such a charge. I make it with great pain against one occupying a position of great responsibility in the government of the country, but it will be for you and the country to judge whether or not it is justified."

The Government were so anxious to have the correspondence with their replies published, that they were stuck away in the coalholes of the House of Commons, although the House had ordered the letters to be published two months ago.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The Government never raised any objection to the correspondence being published. They did not order the publication. They left it to the Gentleman who moved for the Return to be presented, which is the universal custom.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that was a sort of excuse which impressed him, and he believed would impress the country, unfavourably. Here was a man in the position of the Bishop of Limerick, who, in regard to this matter, made this charge, and the Government had agreed, a long time after, to the correspondence being presented; but, because the Gentleman who had asked for the correspondence did not take the trouble to run after the officials of that House and find out the Queen's printers, or whoever had charge of the printing, the course was not followed which would have been if the matter dealt with had been English and concerned even the spoiled rations of a single soldier, in which case the whole correspondence would have been printed long ago. The Government had allowed their reply, which they considered convincing, to remain unprinted. The right hon. Gentleman's reply to the Bishop extended to many pages.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: It is shorter than the Bishop's.

Mr. T. M. HEALY! And a great deal less pungent, if I may say so. He had acquitted the right hon. Gentleman of anything personally dishonourable, for he was sure he acted on the advice of his officials. The Government had referred the matter back to the Educational Endowment Committee, who for three years had been considering it. But let the House take cognisance of the expense involved in this matter. The Catholics of Ireland were necessarily a poor people, and those interested in this matter were obliged, at great expense, to come up to Dublin time after time and appear before the Privy Council. He confessed he did not thoroughly understand this matter, and he believed it was beyond the power of human comprehension to understand it. The fresh scheme had now been sent back to the Endowment Commissioners, and in the meantime the money of the people, public time, and public temper were being wasted. When the Chief Secretary came into office he said he would hold the scales evenly, but the way in which he had done that, metaphorically speaking, was by hitting the Bishop of Limerick on the head with a loaded stick, and giving £600 or £700 a year compensation to the local Protestant Canon, of which he had been previously deprived by the House. Her Majesty's present Government were in opposition, and were represented in the House when the scheme was approved, and why did they not then claim to have it mitigated. No such claim was made. He (Mr. Healy) had brought this matter forward with keen regret; he would have preferred to have let it sleep, but the action of the Irish education authority compelled him to bring it forward. He had next to draw the attention of the Chief Secretary to the case of the Erasmus Smith Endowment, the present position of which, after it had come before Lord Justice Fitz-Gibbon and Mr. Justice O'Brien, was to leave the Protestants in possession of the entire scheme, amounting to something like £20,000 or £30,000 a year, the Catholics being deprived of all aid for education. The present Chief Secretary, following a pledge given by Mr. John Morley, promised, in reply to a deputation, that he would turn the matter over in his head, and endeavour to give effect to the pledge of his predecessor. But what happened. When he (Mr. Healy) questioned the right hon. Gentleman on the matter, he said he thought a Bill would settle the matter, adding that he did not think there was any prospect of bringing it in because he had ascertained there would be opposition in certain quarters of the House. [*Laughter.*] But why could not the right hon. Gentleman, at all events, bring in his Bill and let them see what it was like. The Government were now at the end of their first Session, and they had not even put a cup of cold water to the lips of Ireland. [*Nationalist cheers.*] If Bills were required to redress the grievances to which he had called attention, something might be said for the Government by way of excuse, owing to the multiplicity of their legislative projects. But these were matters of administration, and no Bills were required for a reasonable fulfilment of the promises of the Government. Of course, he could see that the Chief Secretary was in a position of difficulty owing to the gang of advisers with which he had to deal in Ireland. One of the most remarkable things ever said by an ex-Minister to a Minister was the words of warning which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose addressed to the Chief Secretary on entering into office last year. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose said :—"The Chief Secretary must remember the class of people he has to deal with as advisers in Ireland," which showed that the late Chief Secretary must not have been well served by those gentlemen himself. The truth was that the whole system of government in Ireland was clogged with Toryism, clogged with religious prejudice, clogged with hatred of the people. Hatred of the Papist was the predominant feeling in the governors of Ireland. That was the system of which the Chief Secretary was the British mouthpiece. The accents of the right hon. Gentleman were those of civilisation, but the officials whose accents he translated represented mediæval barbarism. [*Nationalist cheers.*]

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, who was received with cheers, said the hon. Gentleman had reminded him that his predecessor in office had warned him against the officials he would have to deal with in Ireland. This constant denunciation of the officials of Dublin Castle was one of those commonplaces which people went on repeating until they believed them. [*Cheers, and Nationalist cries of* "Oh!"] The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose should have been the last person to utter such words. The right hon. Gentleman himself should have remembered that it was he himself who had appointed the Under Secretary and the Assistant Under Secretary in Dublin Castle, and that, in attacking Dublin Castle, he was attacking the two chiefs whom he himself had appointed. [*Cheers.*] The hon. Member for South Donegal also attacked him for having delivered himself over to the Castle officials, and as an instance of that the hon. Member stated that he had approached a Judge of the High Court under the inspiration of the officials of Dublin Castle. What authority had the hon. Member for saying that? Absolutely none; it was entirely the hon. Gentleman's own invention. [*Cheers.*] All he had done was to ask Mr. Justice Bewley what, under certain conditions, would be the course the Land Commissioners would think themselves justified in adopting. He did it in the interest of the tenants; he had no reason to be ashamed of it; and he did not see how in doing it he had tampered with the foundations of justice in Ireland. [*Cheers.*] He did not think that the hon. Member for Louth would have raised the question of the Roxborough schools, for the simple reason that the correspondence in reference to those schools was not of a kind of which the Bishop of Limerick ought to be particularly proud. [*Nationalist cries of* "Oh!"] The hon. Member was a master of pungent language; but he was proud to say that on this occasion the hon. Member had exhibited a courtesy towards him which the Bishop of Limerick had not. The Bishop had accused him, on what was an exceedingly slender foundation, of a breach of faith; and the hon. Member had said he was not guilty of a breach of faith. But the hon. Member went on to say that he had, metaphorically speaking, struck the Bishop of Limerick on the head with a loaded stick. [*Laughter.*] The exact contrary was the fact. The head that was struck was not the Bishop of Limerick's, but his; and the person who wielded the loaded stick was the Bishop of Limerick. [*Laughter.*] He had reason to think highly of the Bishop of Limerick, and therefore he had read the language of the Bishop's letter with astonishment and regret. One of the recommendations in the scheme of the Judicial Commissioners, in connection with the Roxborough schools, which was submitted to the Castle, was that compensation should be given to Canon Gregg. The Privy Council disapproved of compensation, but instead inserted a provision giving Canon Gregg the right of pre-emption to the school. When the scheme came before the House of Commons, the House declared against the principle of pre-emption, on the ground that the Commissioners were better judges than the Privy Council of the merits of the case. The Government then remitted the scheme to the Judicial Commissioners for their observations, and the Commissioners wrote to the Government that the effect of striking out the pre-emption clause without reinstating the compensation clause would be to deprive Canon Gregg both of the pre-emption directed by the Privy Council and the compensation to which the Commissioners thought him to be justly entitled. The Commissioners drew up another scheme in which compensation was again substituted for pre-emption. He then wrote a letter in which he told the Bishop of Limerick that no scheme would be adopted without giving him and others interested a full opportunity of appearing in opposition to it. But he did not mean that that was to preclude the Lord Lieutenant from disapproving of the existing scheme. In fact, he thought the Lord Lieutenant had already disapproved of that scheme. But the full opportunity promised was given to the Bishop of Limerick, and the Bishop availed himself of it to such excellent purpose that he persuaded the Privy Council that the new scheme ought not to be adopted, and to restore the scheme which the Resolution of the House of Commons had approved. In due course of time that scheme would be submitted to the Lord Lieutenant, and would, he thought, be sanctioned by the Lord Lieutenant; but as the approval of Parliament must be obtained the scheme would have to be laid on the Table of the House. Under the circumstances, he did not see how it was possible for the Irish Government to act differently, having regard to the expression of opinion by the Judicial Commissioners. The one thing he regretted was that he should have had a correspondence of this painful nature with one whom he should have wished to respect as he had done before that correspondence took place. As to the Erasmus Smith Schools, last autumn he stated to a deputation that, as the learned Judges had unfortunately differed on the matter, it was desirable that a conclusion should be arrived at, but that if legislation were necessary he could not undertake that it would be proceeded with. When Parliament met he was given to understand that any Bill which he might introduce on the subject would be bitterly opposed.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: By whom?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that it was unnecessary to say by whom. The hon. and learned Gentleman said that at least a sight of the Bill might have been given to the House. But when another small Bill dealing with park regulations was introduced and opposed, the hon. and learned gentleman was very sarcastic at the expense of the Government, asking why, as the Bill had no chance of passing, it had been thought worth while to introduce it.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Has the right hon. Gentleman any scheme in his mind, or are the Catholics to be entirely deprived of these endowments?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that he had already expressed the opinion that the question ought to be settled, and if there were ample time he should be quite prepared to introduce a Bill. The hon.

Member who moved the reduction of the Vote complained that he, as Chief Secretary, had adopted an attitude of "masterly inactivity." If the way in which he had spent his days since he assumed Office could be described, as "masterly inactivity," he should like to know what activity meant. [*Laughter.*]

MR. DILLON: I only alluded to the results.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR reminded the hon. Member that it was "not in mortals to command success;" they could only deserve it. As to the complaint that he was not a Member of the Cabinet, if it was particular to himself, his modesty would shrink from entering upon the question. [*Laughter.*] But if it was contended that the Chief Secretary should invariably be a Member of the Cabinet, he could only say that that had not been the established practice. During the last 15 years, while Ireland was most disturbed, there had been two Liberal Chief Secretaries who were not Members of the Cabinet—the right hon. Member for the Bridgeton Division and the right hon. Member for Stirling. Previous to that time it was more frequent than not for the Chief Secretary to be outside the Cabinet. But, at any rate, the fact that he was not in the Cabinet was hardly a reason for reducing his salary—[*laughter*]—unless, indeed, Irish Administration had suffered, and that had not been proved. The hon. and learned Member for Louth would remember that at the end of the Debate on the Address it was arranged that a Bill dealing with the Christian Brothers' Schools should be brought in on the understanding that it should be introduced after 12 o'clock, and should not be proceeded with if it were opposed. Therefore, on that score he could not see any ground for complaint against him, for he was not responsible for what was done four years ago. Then his action in proposing to give grants-in-aid to schools which were not under the Conscience Clause had been criticised as inconsistent with the policy pursued by his two immediate predecessors. Neither the hon. Member nor the Bishops who condemned his policy had taken the trouble to understand it. If these schools were to have been dealt with as a part of the national system, he should have required a Conscience Clause. But, having abandoned the hope of dealing with the question by means of the National Board, he adopted a policy which ran on quite different lines. It was argued that the grants were too small and that the Conscience Clause ought to have been insisted on. But those two things went strictly together. He decided that if these schools were to receive a grant from the State at all they must be left free to carry on the internal arrangements as they pleased; but then it became necessary that the grant should be so small that it would not be a temptation to other schools within the national system to leave it. The hon. Member had reminded the House that when he took Office he expressed the desire to hold the scales evenly between the two factions in Ireland, and in the same breath the hon. Member complained that he had pleased nobody. He thought that was perfectly possible. He hardly expected to please anybody in Ireland, because what was fair to one party was always condemned by the other. That was, and would continue to be, the lot of any Chief Secretary who tried to direct his course, not to plase one party or the other, but to do what was right. [*Cheers.*] That he had tried to do. He might have failed, for the task was very difficult. But he did not think that the House of Commons would support the hon. Member in the declaration that he had so entirely failed as to deserve having his salary cut down by £2,000. [*Laughter and cheers.*]

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said that there had been fewer complaints made against the right hon. Gentleman than was usual when the Chief Secretary's salary came up for discussion. But it would be a great mistake to suppose that the Irish people were less discontented with the existing state of things; very little had occurred during the right hon. Gentleman's tenure of Office in the direction most likely to arouse complaint. For the last 12 months there had undoubtedly been a lull in Ireland, and the people had been in a state of expectation. There had been a disposition to give the right hon. Gentleman a chance. The Chief Secretary had taken comfort from the fact that no one had imputed bad faith to him. He had no more complaint to make against the present Chief Secretary than of any other Chief Secretary; his objection was to the Office itself. He was not acquainted with the right hon. Gentleman sufficiently to decide upon the question of his charms and his amiability; but, however great his charms as an individual, or his amiability as an official, he predicted that the right hon. Gentleman would find himself bitterly opposed and surrounded with all sorts of difficulties unless he was prepared to urge on his Government the desirability of carrying forward large reforms in Ireland. The Office of Chief Secretary was a standing source of humiliation, disgrace, and disaster to the Irish people. He believed, honestly, that it was absolutely impossible for any Chief Secretary of any Party to give satisfaction in Ireland under the present circumstances of the country. The office ought to be held, or at least the work ought to be done by half-a-dozen Ministers, and if Irishmen were allowed to govern themselves that would be the case. The very name was the embodiment of a system which had ruined Ireland. As an Irishman, the very name Chief Secretary was distasteful to him. Every time he looked across the floor of the House and saw the right hon. Gentleman, and behind him some other gentlemen helping him, he felt humiliated, as an Irishman, that, with so many of his countrymen here, 80 or 85 representatives of the race to which he belonged, they were not allowed to manage the most trivial affairs in the Government of their country, but were compelled to come over here and submit to the control of Gentlemen, who, however amiable, were English and not Irish, and had no possible qualification to govern the Irish people better than they could govern themselves. There was no person in the House freer from bigotry than he was. He did not care what a man's colour or country was, provided he was a good man, and intended to do his duty, but to a people like the Irish, with their storong sense of national feeling and sentiment, it was a continual source of irritation, to put it mildly, to see their country governed and controlled by Englishmen instead of by people of their own race and blood. He was not suggesting that the Office should be filled by an Irishman, because the Irishman who would take the Office would be a political character, and calculated to give satisfaction to the people of the country. Again, without entering into any religious question, he maintained that it was a wrong thing that in a country like Ireland, where the vast majority of the people belonged to a particular religion, the officials connected with the administration should hardly ever be men of the same religion as the majority. It was not because they had the slightest objection to Protestants—the Irish were the least bigoted nation in Europe—but he contended that the practice—for it was more than a coincidence—of every official in Ireland, from the Lord Lieutenant downwards, being a Protestant, was a slur and a reflection upon the great mass of the people. Experience had taught the Irish people what they were likely to expect, and throughout the century their experience had been such as to show that nothing was to be gained for their country by the continuance of these offices. The Irish people had been accused without reason of being rebels, and it was said that they had no genuine grievance to complain of owing to the representation they had in Parliament. But, against the unanimous opinion of the Irish Members, the word of the Chief Secretary and the Lord Lieutenant was enough to carry with them the House of Commons, and thus the whole system of an amiable and charming despotism, under which Ireland was ruled, was wrong. When Parliament was not sitting, the right hon. Gentleman was as absolute master of Ireland and the liberties of the people as the Czar of Russia. He had no personal feeling against the right hon. Gentleman in the matter. He did not think that the former Chief Secretary was better than the present Chief Secretary; in fact, the balance was rather to the credit of the present Chief Secretary, because the last Chief Secretary sent 200 policemen to forcibly prevent him from addressing his constituents. The present Chief Secretary had not yet done so, but he had no doubt that unless the Government did something to justify itself, the right hon. Gentleman would probably send 300 instead of 200. He hoped that before this time next year, the right hon. Gentleman would endeavour to do something really to make the people believe that it was his desire to do something for their benefit. The right hon. Gentleman said that he was going to rule the country with an even hand. Other Chief Secretaries had said the same, but under the present system such a course was impossible, even to the best intentioned Minister. Unless something was done, therefore, to meet the wants of the people coercion would be again in force in opposition to the Irish people, and the Chief Secretary would have to go through a distressing period like that with which some of his predecessors had to deal.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) acknowledged that the Chief Secretary deserved credit for not having put in force the provisions of the Coercion Act, capable of being brought into play by Proclamation. The right hon. Gentleman had also shown good sense in resisting the representations of the Judges who had been endeavouring to dictate to the Executive Government of Ireland the methods by which the country should be governed. There was no foundation for the allegation that juries had failed to do their duty, or that criminals had not been punished. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would continue to maintain his present attitude, and that his administration would not be stained by the enforcement of the obnoxious provisions of the Coercion Act. The right hon. Gentleman had vindicated his own consistency on the education question, but the important point was not what had happened in the past, but what was going to happen in the future, and he observed that the right hon. Gentleman had given the Committee no information as to what he meant to do. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman considered that this question was closed. He at least gave no hint of any attempt to reopen it, though he could not consider that it was settled. By the introduction of the Bill the right hon. Gentleman acknowledged that there was a question which required settlement. It was usually treated as if it was a religious question. It was a financial question, in the first place, and in the second place compulsory education in Ireland was another branch of the subject. Up to the present they had not got the education in Cork which they wanted, while in England parents could obtain, free of cost, that education for their children which they wanted.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: The hon. Member is now travelling into the general question.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said he did not propose to discuss the general question; he wished to invite from the right hon. Gentleman some declaration of policy on this question of education. That was a question raised by previous speakers, and he did not think it could be disposed of by the *apologia* which he had made. If the right hon. Gentleman thought it more convenient to raise the point on the Education Vote, he should be quite willing to take that course. He wished to raise that part of the question which dealt with the personal responsibility of the Chief Secretary. He thought they were entitled to invite from the right hon. Gentleman some declaration as to what he meant to do on this question in the future. If not strictly in order, he should not go into minute details. The religious aspect was the most serious aspect. In Cork the policy of compulsory education was never enforced, in consequence of the attitude of the Chief Secretary. Four years had passed since the compulsory Act was passed. He thought it was a most excellent Act.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: That certainly does not come within the Vote.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said he should not speak further on that question beyond saying that the right hon. Gentleman must be sure that he would never succeed in putting the provisions of the Act into satisfactory operation unless there was some practical settlement of the religious difficulty. The local bodies were not going to be forced to send their children to schools which they did not want, and unless the right hon. Gentleman hit on some plan he might bid good-bye to any hope of seeing the Act put into operation. He would impress upon the right hon. Gentleman that this was a very large question, and that it was quite impossible for him to leave it where he left it the other night. He hoped they would obtain some further statement from him as to his future policy on this important question. There was one other matter to which he wished to direct attention—the case of Professor England, and the way in which he had been treated by the Irish Government. He did not think that the right hon. Gentleman was himself satisfied with the answer he had recently given on this matter, or that he was satisfied with the way in which the learned Professor had been treated. If he were to speculate as to what went on behind the scenes, he would say that it was the Treasury in this country which prevented the Irish Government doing what was just and right. The treatment to which the Professor had been subjected was absolutely illegal, for the President of the Galway College, Dr. Moffat, who had more sense and influential friends, was able to retain his office and its emoluments. He obtained a declaration from the highest legal authorities that the action taken with regard to Professor England was absolutely illegal and unjustifiable. The decision in Dr. Moffat's case ought to govern Professor England's case. There never was a stronger case than this for compensation. It was an extraordinary position for a Government to take up and say, "we have acted illegally, we have inflicted a wrong and damage, but Professor England submitted to it, and therefore we shall not give him any compensation whatever." He thought that he had gathered from the reply of the Chief Secretary that the matter would be favourably considered, but the blame, no doubt, rested with the Treasury. He asked the Chief Secretary not to sit down under proceedings of this kind. So far as Ireland was concerned, the policy of the Treasury seemed to be summed up in the words, "Let us put our heads together and see what we can steal from Ireland." This principle was developed even in the Procedure Clauses of the Land Bill. The Treasury officials lifted their hands in horror at the idea of having to pay for 50 or 60 Sub-Commissioners. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be careful in dealing with the Treasury. He admitted that the duties of the Chief Secretary were very onerous, and that anyone entering upon the Office for the first time would find the work at the outset certainly most difficult and laborious. At the same he would urge the right hon. Gentleman to give attention to the points to which he had referred. For the administration of affairs in Ireland was still very unsatisfactory to the people at large, and he ventured to say that the Executive Government would yet be obliged to choose between two courses—either to hand over the control of such affairs to the people of Ireland themselves, or to place the Office of the Chief Secretary on a totally different basis from that on which it now stood —to make the Chief Secretary the Minister of Ireland in reality. Until one course or the other was taken, Irish Members would have still to come to that House, as they had done year after year in the past, to complain of the position in which the country was placed, and of the injustices from which it suffered. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. GEORGE MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid) said he supported the Motion on the ground that the Chief Secretary had not fulfilled the promises he made when he entered upon the Office, that he would deal out equal treatment alike to all sections of the Irish people. His ideas of the duties of a Chief Secretary were that he should give his first thoughts and efforts to the interests of Ireland—that in all his duties his main consideration should be the benefit and welfare of the people and the country which he represented, and for which he acted. But this had not been the grounds on which Chief Secretaries generally had acted, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman also had failed to do so in several matters. In regard to the Rating Bill, for example, he did not think the right hon. Gentleman had stood up for Ireland as he ought to have done, and he certainly had not followed the just and admirable example of his predecessor with respect to the appointment of Catholic magistrates in fair proportion in places where the population was almost evenly divided between the two sections of Protestants and Catholics. Certainly, the right hon. Gentleman had not observed his promise of even-handed treatment in this respect in the part of Ireland which he represented.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS called the hon. Member to order, on the ground that the particular matter to which he was referring did not come within the province of the Chief Secretary.

MR. MURNAGHAN said he would obey the ruling of the Chairman, but he desired to point out that in a matter which closely affected the majority of the people of Ireland, the right hon. Gentleman had not fulfilled his promise of equal treatment to all sections of the population. He contended that it was the peculiar function of the Chief Secretary to watch over the interests of Ireland—to see that she had fair play in the general Government of the United Kingdom, and that she suffered no loss or disadvantage in any respect. For the Chief Secretary was really the only Minister for Ireland responsible to the people, and through him only, under the present system, could the people hope to obtain just treatment and redress of their grievances. [" Hear, hear ! "] There were several matters in regard to which the right hon. Gentleman might succeed in obtaining fairer treatment for Ireland if he devoted his attention and energy to them. For instance, in regard to the Land Bill, there was nothing which the people in the part of Ulster he represented desired more than a reduction of the statutory term, but the Chief Secretary had permitted that point to be excluded from the Measure.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said it was out of order for the hon. Member to discuss the Land Bill on the question of the Vote before the Committee.

MR. MURNAGHAN said that with regard to the great question of education, again, the right hon. Gentleman had not sought to carry out his purpose of even-handed treatment in Ireland. In many places where the population was equally divided between Protestants and Catholics, and even in places where the Catholics predominated in numbers, the Catholic schools received no grant or assistance whatever from the State and had to support their own schools, while the Protestant schools were in receipt of State aid. This was a question to which, almost above all others, the right hon. Gentleman might devote his attention with advantage to the country, for at present Catholics in Ireland laboured under great disadvantages in the matter of national education. [" Hear, hear ! "] But the prospect of redress in Ireland in this and other matters under the present system was not, he feared, very favourable. From the way in which business was conducted in that House, he contended that the Irish people had no really effective representation there at all ; for the great body of the Irish Members—those who represented the people as a whole—were never consulted as to the wants of the country. In those circumstances, he thought he was justified in supporting the Motion.

MR. MACNEILL was sorry there should have been any matter savouring of personal controversy between him and the Chief Secretary. He charged the right hon. Gentleman with having appointed Mr. Justice Bewley a Judge of the High Court, with having taken that step upon the instigation of Castle officials. He based this charge on a speech of the right hon. Gentleman's in that House on the 15th August 1895, on a speech of the Irish Attorney General's defending the Chief Secretary's action as the action of the Government, and on a speech of Mr. Serjeant Hemphill's commenting strongly on the impropriety of the step. He thought, as the matter was one of a technical character, he was justified in considering that the Chief Secretary acted on the advice of others, and he was surprised at hearing his statements characterised as "an invention."

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said as the hon. and learned Gentleman had always been polite to himself, he had pleasure in withdrawing the word "invention" and substituting the word "inference."

MR. T. M. HEALY wished to press the right hon. Gentleman in respect to the Erasmus Smith Schools. There was an admitted grievance upon which two great Judges—one a Catholic and the other a Protestant—differed. The Protestant said : "We won't give the Catholics what is ours." He did not object to their position, but it was a position in regard to which he was entitled to say that the Government which claimed to administer even-handed justice, should say : "We will make a fair and equal distribution of the money," or, if they would not do that, should say : "We will refer the question to some tribunal of the nature of an appellant tribunal." That was all he asked. It was most unsatisfactory that the Government had allowed the Act of 1875 to lapse, and that there should be no means now known to the law by which a rehearing of this case could be had. The question could not be allowed to remain where it was. The right hon. Gentleman would not bring in a Bill because he had on hand the Uganda Railway, a Conciliation Bill, an Army Manœuvres Bill, and all the rest of the rag-tag and bob-tail of English legislation. To use the phrase of an English Judge, he did not care one dump for either one or the other of those Measures, but he did care for a settlement of the question concerning these schools. The Chief Secretary had said the Bishop of Limerick would have his own way in the end. Yes; but no thanks would be due to Dublin Castle. If the Bishop had won his case, he had done so because the merits were on his side.

Mr. DILLON thought the Chief Secretary should explain what the future policy of the Government on the educational question in Ireland was to be. The right hon. Gentleman had said he despaired of settling the question in connection with the National Board. Why did he despair? He had a majority on that Board, and he had both the Catholic and Protestant Archbishop of Dublin with him. The right hon. Gentleman also said he had arrived at the conclusion that he could not please anybody in Ireland. The Chief Secretary went a little further than he would be inclined to go, but as the right hon. Gentleman was not concerned about the opinion of the people, why did he not try to settle the education question?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR submitted that on the Estimates, and at this period of the Session, he could not be expected to make a statement as to the views of the Government on the education question. The time to raise such a question was surely during the consideration of the Address. [*A laugh.*] When next Session came the Government would have time to consider the position, whether any legislation on the education question was compatible with their other legislative proposals. It was quite evident that if Parliament sat for 365 days in the year, and hon. Members opposite had their way, Ireland would require 300 of those days. [Mr. T. M. Healy: "Yes; every day if we want them. We do not want to come here. Give us our own Parliament."] With regard to the Erasmus Smith Schools, he had already explained that he concurred in the view that, as two eminent Judges had differed upon this question, it was desirable that a settlement should be arrived at in another way. The only question was, whether he ought to have introduced a Bill this Session to settle the matter, and it had seemed to him inexpedient to adopt that course in view of the relative importance of other legislative projects. If he had enough time at his disposal, he would be willing to deal with the matter. With regard to the Roxborough Schools case it had been said that it was with deep regret that he had recognised that the Bishop was likely to have his way in the end. He could assure hon. Members below the Gangway opposite that he had felt no such regret. It was a matter of indifference to him whether the Bishop of Limerick or the other side gained the victory. What he desired was that justice should be done. On the receipt of information that there was some danger that justice was not going to be done, he took steps to have the case reheard. If the result of that had been to put the case back into the position in which it was when the Resolution was passed by the House of Commons, he could not do otherwise than regret the expense that had been incurred and the time that had been lost. But such circumstances did not alter his opinion that he was right in taking the action he did. With reference to the case of Professor England, he had to say, as he had pressed for information, that the Principal of Queen's College had declared that it would not be to the interest of the College that Professor England should continue in the performance of his duties. In these circumstances, apart from the Order in Council, it would have been quite proper to decide that his tenure of office should come to an end. The case was fully and fairly considered.

Mr. J. DALY (Monaghan, S.) said that the right hon. Gentleman suggested that the Irish education question should be raised in the Debate on the Address next January or February. But his hon. Friends would insist on bringing the question forward before this Session closed if they did not receive satisfactory assurances now. He had the greatest possible respect for the right hon. Gentleman, and he believed that he would be inclined to do justice to Ireland if things were left in his hands; but Dublin Castle had exercised its usual influence over the right hon. Gentleman with the result that his administration had up to the present been as great a failure as the administrations of many of his predecessors. The only hon. Member who had congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on his government of Ireland was an hon. Member whose followers in Ulster not long ago threatened to kick the Queen's crown into the Boyne.

*MR. JOHNSTON said that this charge was evidently directed against him. He had repudiated the charge already more than once. The language referred to by the hon. Member was not used by him. The only ground for the charge was that at a certain meeting which he attended a clergyman spoke of King James's crown being kicked into the Boyne.

MR. J. DALY said that it was unfortunate that the Chief Secretary was not a Member of the Cabinet. As it was the right hon. Gentleman was the representative in that House of the landlords' cabinet. He was disappointed at the inaction of the right hon. Gentleman with respect to the evicted tenants' question, and he considered that the right hon. Gentleman had made a bitter and partisan speech on that subject. If the right hon. Gentleman only understood the circumstances that led to the eviction of these unfortunate men he would, he felt sure, make a great effort to reinstate them. The right hon. Member had said that a vast number of evicted tenants were going back to their holdings in the district from which he came. That certainly was not the case. No tenants had been reinstated there. He trusted that the right hon. Gentleman would make an effort, even at the eleventh hour, to put these men back into their homes. They did not ask that English money should be used for that purpose; the Irish Church Fund was available. An Education Bill had been introduced this Session and abandoned.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: This is not the time to review the legislation of the Session.

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) reminded the Chief Secretary that at an early period of the Session he promised to introduce a Bill providing £15,000 for the establishment of a veterinary college in Ireland. There was a veterinary college in Scotland, and in England, but in Ireland, a country whose chief product was live stock, they were without one. He thought this was a matter deserving the serious attention of the Government. He hoped, also, that the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to grant an increased amount of money to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; in the transit of live stock there was half a million of money lost yearly to Ireland, and any steps which might be taken to mitigate that loss were of great value. He found that there was a miserable sum of £50 granted to the Vice President of the Society. It was the duty of the Irish Chief Secretary, who was charged with the responsibility of looking after the material interests of the country which he practically governed, to enable them to make the most of their resources. He had formerly asked the late Chief Secretary to bring in a Bill to make the shipowners as carriers responsible in this matter, but he was told that there was so much opposition to the proposal that it would be impossible, as it would take up so much time. But a Bill which would enrich Ireland to the extent of half-a-million per annum would be looked upon as a national matter. When the right hon. Gentleman came to office they were told that all the material interests of Ireland would be looked after, and it was predicted that Home Rule would fail by reason of the kindness which they would receive from the Conservative Government. But he would ask the right hon. gentleman what material interests of Ireland had been looked after? How much money had been spent in their country? They, who produced meat in Ireland, were supplied now from across the Atlantic with foreign meat.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said these matters did not arise on the Vote.

MR. FIELD said he thought it was relevant to the subject to point out that they had to pay taxes to subsidise foreign Governments, who made a war of Protection against their goods, while they were themselves a meat-producing country. Their constituents did not expect them to come there Session after Session without getting some useful legislation.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.) regretted the reply which the right hon. Gentleman had made to the hon. Member for East Mayo. One of the fundamental duties of any Government was to provide for the education of the rising generation. They did not think the right hon. Gentleman would do very much for Ireland, but a large section of the Irish people did think that when the Unionist Government came into power they would certainly do something for the education of the people in Ireland. But the right hon. Gentleman, with his large majority at his back, had refused to do anything for education. But he was in a position to defy any narrow section which might oppose him, and could dispense with the vote of the hon. Member for South Belfast, whose opinions on this education question were well known.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said they recognised the courtesy and urbanity of the right hon. Gentleman, but at the same time their sense of duty impelled them to attack his administration, which up to the present had been conducted on very different principles from those which he had laid down at an earlier period of his official life. His whole administration in Ireland might be summed up as a policy of good intentions but most fruitful in failure. He protested against the manner in which Irish legislation was introduced at the fag end of a Session, or at late hours of the night. Turning to the subject of Irish education, the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland was connected with the administration of the law, and having come into office with a large majority at his back—a majority that was strongly in favour of denominational education—he had been placed in a peculiarly fortunate position for dealing with the subject. In June 1895, just before he went out of office, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Montrose Burghs had brought his negotiations with the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland to so close a point that very little more was required to bridge over the difference between them. Nothing could have been more simple than for the right hon. Gentleman the present Chief Secretary for Ireland to have taken up the negotiations at the point where the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Montrose Burghs had left them. The right hon. Gentleman, however, had not taken that course. It must be remembered that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Montrose Burghs had laboured under the disadvantage that the majority at his back were not in favour of denominational education. Who had the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland consulted in reference to this subject? Had he consulted the Irish Roman Catholic bishops? Why, it was clear that the right hon. Gentleman had only consulted some narrow sectarian body in Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman ought to have consulted public opinion in Ireland on this important question, and he complained that the right hon. Gentleman had not taken that course. The matter went to the very root of the popular conscience and feeling in Ireland, where education was the burning question of the hour. The right hon. Gentleman should take some pains to inform himself of the feelings and opinions of the Irish people with regard to this question. He desired to protest against legislation on this subject at the fag end of the Session, as being most unfair to Irish Members. Legislation with regard to Irish education ought to be treated with some sense of decorum and of fair play. ["Hear, hear!"]

DR. TANNER (Cork Co., Mid) said that Irish Members had absolutely to hold up the looking-glass before the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland to show him his own political physiognomy reflected therein. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] Everyone on those Benches was perfectly aware that the right hon. Gentleman had no power to do anything. He might have some family influence, but, after all, that would not always be available. Whether or not the right hon. Gentleman was a man of genius, talent and geniality he would leave to posterity to say; but the Nationalist Members had found him an extremely amiable and nicely-spoken young gentleman. [*Laughter*.] Anybody asking him a question always met with courtesy, but whenever an Irish Member put a question on any matter he was sent to the House of Commons to carry out, he was met with a very emphatic "No." In answer to at least 99 out of every 100 questions, though most urgent matters affecting the benefit of the constituencies of the hon. Gentlemen putting them, the answer was "No"—a universal, unyielding "No." It had been his duty during the current Session to put many questions to the right hon. Gentleman, and he had never received a single satisfactory reply, though those questions had mainly affected the constituency he represented, whether in regard to light railways, labourers' cottages, or like matters. He was always courteously put off, and nothing was done. Let the right hon. Gentleman not be led away by the occasional praise with which his actions were met. Let him look to the praise he might obtain, if his Government were a good one, from the Irish people. Let him look to their judgment. The whole system was a bad one. It was not by establishing a Veterinary College in Dublin, or by bolstering up the Munster Dairy School that the gangrene that existed in Ireland could be cured. The right hon. Gentleman should try during his tenure of office, which they all hoped might be as short as possible, to shake himself free from the trammels set up by his predecessors. The right hon. Gentleman had, practically speaking, no control over any one of the Departments of which he was the chief. The gentlemen on the Local Government Board held the ribbons in their hands, and the right hon. Gentleman lacked the power to do anything. He might occasionally spur or whip the horses of administration, but he could not take the reins into his own hands. His distinguished predecessor failed in Ireland, and the right hon. Gentleman would fail. He hoped, as he had said, that the right hon. Gentleman would shake himself free from the trammels that surrounded his office, and try, in the interests of the poor people under his rule, to do something more for them than had yet been done to promote a certain amount of welfare in Ireland. If he did so he would at any rate put down for the time that growing discontent which, from all accounts, was now existent in Ireland. Ireland required a steady, tolerant, and benevolent system to relieve her from the distress in which she lived. The right hon. Gentleman was a new comer to office, and being a new boy the Irish Members let him off with a caution. [*Laughter*.]

MR. MICHAEL FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) said they were told to expect that if the Conservative Party came into office, Home Rule would be killed by kindness. Instead of that he found that the Irish people were being strangled by taxation. The county of Kerry was asked to pay £1,628 7s. 1d for six months for extra police. He had lived in that county for years and was intimately acquainted with the duties the extra police had to perform, and he had no hesitation in challenging the Chief Secretary to say that these police were necessary? He could not give more conclusive evidence of the peaceful condition of the county than by pointing out that the County Court judge—Judge Shaw—at the three principal towns in the county, was lately presented with white gloves, and had to declare that there was no criminal business on the local calendars. In view of that fact and the fact that at the last Assizes only four bills came before the Judge, it was a monstrous thing to impose on that impoverished county a tax of over £3,000 annually when the county was in such a peaceful condition. He would mention also that under the Grand Jury system the people of Kerry were asked to pay annually £20,122 11s. 10d. for railways for the promotion of which he believed the right hon. Gentleman or his predecessors had been to some extent responsible. To some extent these railways might be beneficial to the people of Kerry, but for them to be asked to contribute the enormous sum of £20,000 a year for guarantees given by a body which was not elected by or representative of the people of the county, was a thing they could not and would not bear much longer.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I would remind the hon. Gentleman that the matters to which he is referring are not in the discretion of the Chief Secretary.

Mr. FLAVIN would direct his observations to the duties of the extra police, which were in the discretion of the Chief Secretary. Their duties were, and had been for years, to protect evicted farms. He instanced cases in which the tenants had been evicted 14 years ago for £60, one year's rent, the farms being still idle, though the tenants had offered half the rent, but the offer had been declined. Special police had been employed to protect the farms, which were on the estate of a landlord who was an absentee, and who, through the mismanagement and tyranny of his local agent, had become bankrupt. It was not fair that a people who were anxious to live as law-abiding citizens, should be compelled to pay an extra tax because of the tyranny of a local agent or landlord who was an absentee. He pressed the Chief Secretary to take immediate steps to relieve the people of the county from the burden of excessive taxation under which they were suffering, and against which they had frequently protested. There was no necessity for extra police, the county being quite peaceful.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, in reply to the points raised, observed that it was perfectly true that Kerry was in a comparatively peaceful position. If it was necessary to have there a certain number of extra police, the reason was that so many protection posts were required, and unless they were employed in this duty, he was afraid that Kerry would not be quite so free from crime as it was now. It was his earnest desire to reduce the number of extra police, not only in Kerry, but in every county, as far as it was possible to do so, this matter being one that constantly came before him. He did not know whether the Member for North Cork expected him to go at length into the questions he had touched upon. He did not think the hon. Member was present when the matter of the Christian Brothers was raised, to which he had already replied. The hon. Member made one fresh point as to the possibility of dealing with the subject administratively, and he seemed to think that when the late Chief Secretary went out of Office matters were on the point of reaching a satisfactory conclusion. This was really not at all the case. The right hon. Member for Montrose during the whole of his three years' tenure of the Chief Secretaryship, was engaged in negotiating with the Commissioners of National Education in this matter, but when his tenure of office came to an end he was no nearer a settlement than he was at the beginning. A careful study of the mass of correspondence which took place in his predecessor's time convinced him that it would be practically useless to pursue the correspondence any further. There was one other assertion of the hon. Member to which he must beg to take exception, and that was that at the time the late Government went out of Office the Christian Brothers were prepared to accept the terms suggested by the Commissioners of National Education. That was not so. He had taken the trouble to ascertain what the true state of the case was, and the conclusion he had arrived at—which had never seriously been impugned—was that the Christian Brothers would not have been content to accept what had been drawn up by the Commissioners. One other Question had been asked by the hon. Member for the St. Patrick's Division of Dublin. He said that the late Government promised to bring in a Bill establishing a veterinary college for Ireland, and, on the principle that one Government should act in continuity with another Government, the present Chief Secretary was bound by the promise given by his predecessor. He could not admit that the promise given by one Government in such circumstances, was necessarily binding on a succeeding Government. However, on more than one occasion, he had stated to the hon. Gentleman it was his desire to carry out his predecessor's pledge, and that he hoped to be able, during the course of the present Session, to bring in a Bill dealing with the question. He had not been able to do so so far, but without saying anything more he thought he might be allowed to remind hon. Gentlemen that the Session had not absolutely come to a close. [" Hear, hear ! "] It was impossible for him not to appreciate what hon. Members had said of himself personally, and so far he should carry away with him pleasant recollections of that Debate. [" Hear, hear ! "] He hoped that the Committee would now allow a decision to be taken on the Vote. [" Hear, hear ! "]

Mr. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) observed that the Chief Secretary had stated that the extra police were required for duties in connection with protection posts. But extra police were imposed on counties where there was no necessity for protection posts, and whilst the quota of the free force to which they were entitled by law was not given them, the extra police were absolutely forced upon them at a great cost. This he regarded as a great hardship, calling for immediate redress.

Mr. FLYNN remarked that, in reference to the question as to the negotiations between the Chief Secretary's predecessor and the Commissioners of National Education, he regretted that he and the right hon. Gentleman must agree to differ. He could not accept the right hon. Gentleman's conclusions. He had very carefully read the correspondence, and he failed to see how anyone could say, upon it, that the right hon. Member for Montrose was further away from agreement with the Commissioners at the end of his term of office than at the beginning. He held that the letters showed that there was every prospect of arriving at a settlement when the right hon. Member for Montrose quitted office. He was strongly of opinion that, inasmuch as the present Chief Secretary was placed in a far different position to his predecessor in regard to a question of this kind, any little remaining difficulty could easily be got over by a little patience and prolongation of the correspondence between the right hon. Gentleman and the Commissioners of National Education. With relation to the subject of extra police, he could corroborate all that had been said by the hon. Member for Kerry. He knew a case where the original rental of a farm was £40 a year, the tenant had been evicted, and for 14 years £4,200 annually had been spent in keeping three policemen to protect the holding, the people of the county being mulcted for this extra sum. He suggested that the landlords in such cases should be made to pay their share of the cost of extra police. One of the first things a rack renting landlord applied to Dublin Castle for were extra police. The two great objections were, first, that the free force to which each county was entitled was sufficiently large for each county, and, secondly, it was a monstrous thing that the overtaxed cesspayers in different parts of Ireland should pay 7s., 8s. or 14s. in the pound for these extra police. It should not be levied upon them without the closest scrutiny and inquiry. He hoped the Chief Secretary would give this matter his earnest consideration and not permit a continuance of extra police unless necessary in the interests of public peace and order.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.) said that on several occasions already he had drawn attention to the non-appointment of the Bishop of Ardagh to the visiting board of Mullingar Lunatic Asylum. From this year's list of the governors it still appeared that the Bishop had not been appointed. Both of his predecessors were governors of the Asylum, and there was no earthly reason why he should be excluded from the Board. It consisted of 22 members, of whom 14 were landlords, Conservatives or Unionists, and 7 might be said to represent Nationalist or popular feeling, of the district served by the Asylum. But a vacancy existed through the death of a gentleman who represented Westmeath. He had, himself, intended moving a reduction of the Chief Secretary's salary to call attention to this case. It accentuated the fact that Local Government in Ireland as far as it could be made directly from a central authority was the government of Protestant over Catholic. He hoped this matter would have the attention of the Chief Secretary. He joined with his colleagues in saying that as long as the right hon. Gentleman placed himself in the hands of the official ring in Dublin Castle so long would the people, and especially the Catholic portion of them, expect to find nothing but the same system of official tyranny that had characterised previous Governments. He next wished to call attention to the system of inspection in connection with the Veterinary Department in Dublin. It seemed that local inspectors were appointed by the Boards of Guardians who were paid a salary which could be controlled by a central authority. The local official was not alone in charge; the central authority sent down assistants. But some of these assistants went down with the fixed view that it was their duty to oppose the view of particular cases taken by the local inspectors. Now he contended that there should be a fixed system in the work. It should be left entirely in the hands of the local authority or be taken in hand by the central authority. The present system led to confusion, and loss to the people whose animals were treated. Great hardship was inflicted on the poor, in cases where compensation was given for animals slaughtered. Some of the inspectors took the view in certain cases that the owners of animals were not entitled to compensation, and they had to overcome a lot of red-tapeism before they could obtain it. Then there was not sufficient precaution exercised as regarded the number of animals slaughtered. They were slaughtered in a haphazard rough-and-ready fashion, and it depended on red-tape whether compensation was given to the owner or not. Reference had been made to the general condition of the country over which the Chief Secretary was supposed to exercise almost unlimited power. Twelve months ago the right hon. Gentleman promised that he would see the condition of the country for himself, form his own opinion, and act accordingly. He went to Ireland, and, from what he himself knew of the right hon. Gentleman's vist to the West, it was not made in a way that would give him a fair idea of the country. He was surrounded by the very official rings whose business it was to keep up the system of ascendency and poison the minds of those who wished to do real justice to the country. If the right hon. Gentlemen wished to see the true condition of the people let him mix amongst the people. He was sure that the right hon. Gentleman had recognised by this time that he need not have any fear of going alone amongst the people, and if he would do that—dispensing with the official escort which accompanied him on his last visit—he would return to the House determined to do justice to the people.

DR. TANNER wished to call attention to the work of the Fishery Department, which he did not think was at all well done. There were three fishery inspectors. One was good, one was doubtful, and one was bad. The work of the Rev. Mr. Greene in connection with the deep sea fisheries was thoughtfully entertained and practically carried out. In fact, it might be said that Mr. Greene did all the work, and Mr. Cecil Roche did all the loafing. A great deal of good might be done by the Department if it were more liberal in granting loans to fishermen to assist them in procuring boats and fishing appliances. He would like know why it was that only a sum of £1,884 16s. 6d. was issued in loans last year, and out of that sum £1,285 went to County Dublin alone. Was it because the fishery inspectors, having County Dublin within easy distance, confined themselves to County Dublin? If the right hon. Gentleman could get the fishery inspectors to carry on their work on the excellent plan pursued by the fishery inspectors in Scotland, vast improvements would be effected in the Irish fisheries.

MR. DANIEL MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.) said he would avail himself of the deserted condition of the House to make his maiden speech. [*Laughter.*] The County Court Judge of Monaghan had quite a store of white gloves which had been presented to him sessions after sessions, owing to the happy absence of criminal cases; and it was understood that he intended to ask the permission of the Incorporated Law Society to set up a shop for their sale. [*Laughter.*] It was said that brevity was the soul of wit, and he intended to win the reputation of being one of the wittiest Members in the House by making the shortest maiden speech on record. [*Laughter.*] He would, therefore, simply ask the Chief Secretary what justification he had got for keeping up the extra police force in Monaghan in the circumstances mentioned? [*Laughter and cheers.*]

MR. J. P. FARRELL desired to support the appeal of the hon. Member for Mid Cork in favour of a more liberal distribution of loans to fishermen. The quantity of fish that was lost to the inhabitants of the west coast of Ireland owing to the want of proper fishing appliances was enormous. The people there were practically living on patches of sand amongst arid hills, striving to eke out a most miserable existence, large numbers of them, men and women, having to migrate annually to Scotland for the purpose of finding employment. Yet here, at their very doors, were great shoals of herring and other fish, which, if captured, might be the means of preventing this migration to Scotland to get the wherewithal to live. The district was in very truth the very poorest in all Ireland, and the Congested Districts Board could not do better than devote some of the money at their disposal to the advancement of the fishing industry in the locality, than which nothing that had yet been done for Mayo would be a greater blessing to the inhabitants.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR assured the hon. Member that it was the earnest desire of the Government to do all that could be done to develop the sea fisheries. It was not, however, the want of new piers which prevented fishing enterprise, but the want of boats. In this connection he must protest against the strictures which the hon. Member for Mid Cork had thought fit to pass upon one of the fishery inspectors. He was quite certain that the inspector whom the hon. Gentleman had praised would be the last to join in the condemnation passed upon his colleague. There was not the slightest disinclination on the part of the Government to place the Bishop of Ardagh upon the particular fishery board referred to whenever a vacancy occurred. As to the suggestion that the inspectors should be under the control of the locality, he thought there were advantages in the present system, and it would be almost impossible to carry out the work if the inspectors were subject exclusively to the local authority, because there must be certain unity of action in the matter. He should be glad to give careful consideration to any suggestions that might be made to him with regard to the work of the veterinary department.

Dr. TANNER suggested that if, as in Scotland, each inspector reported upon a certain given district, they would then see who did the work. He was bound to attack Mr. Roche, because he never had any knowledge of the business or of the position into which he was pitchforked. He was half military man, half policeman, half magistrate, and because he was a bully he was made a fishery inspector.

After the usual interval, Mr. E. R. Wodehouse (Bath) took the Chair.

Mr. DALY called attention to the erection of a police hut on property in South Monaghan, the value of the property being only £18. He would respectfully ask the right hon. Gentleman to consider this matter, and he hoped he would be able to give him a satisfactory reply that in a short time this hut would be removed. He considered it a great grievance to a large number of his constituents. The hut was put there to please the landlord during the time when the right hon. Gentleman's brother was Chief Secretary. During that time there might have been occasion for the hut, but what occasion was there for it now, when Ireland was never in a more peaceful condition than it was now.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that he had already pointed out that the existence of these protection posts was with the view of preventing crime which might otherwise take place, and he presumed from the statement of the hon. Member that there had been no crime in the district, that the police protection post had been successful in achieving the object. The hon. Member must recollect that freedom from ordinary crime by no means guaranteed freedom from agrarian crime, if the opportunity for agrarian crime presented itself. That was one of the most elementary facts connected with the administration of justice in Ireland. That was the reason why these protection huts or posts were retained, and he must protest against the idea that the necessity of maintaining these posts was to be measured by the value of the property which was under protection. The protection of the person in his legal rights was the first and most elementary duty of a Government, and they could not measure the urgency of that duty by the mere totting up, the calculating, of the amount of the material interests which were involved. Of course, he would look into the matter, and if he found that the hut was unnecessary he would undoubtedly remove it. If he found it necessary, notwithstanding the statement of the County Court Judge that from the point of view of ordinary crime the district was singularly peaceful, he was afraid he could not hold out any hopes to the hon. Member that it would be possible to remove this protection.

Mr. MICHAEL AUSTIN (Limerick, N.) drew attention to the extra police in the county of Limerick, and said that the condition of affairs in that county in no way justified the extra police retained there. They had a most satisfactory return from the city of Limerick for the past twelve months. The Judge had been presented with white gloves on three successive occasions; the Judge of Assizes had referred to the peaceful condition of the county; and the Grand Jury of the county had also dissented from the continuation of the large number of police in the county of Limerick. Although earlier in the Session, when he put a Question to the right hon. Gentleman, he got no satisfactory answer upon the subject, he thought that, in view of the fact that the peace of the county had been maintained in such a satisfactory manner, it was high time to consider the question of the maintenance of this extra police force in the county.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said this question had been raised several times before, and his answer to the hon. Member must be the same as he had given on previous occasions—namely, that where he could reduce the extra force he should only be too glad to do so.

Vote agreed to.

Resolution to be reported.

CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed:

> "That a sum, not exceeding £616,077 (including a Supplementary sum of £3,375), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete a sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland."

Mr. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) said he wished to call attention to several questions affecting the National Education Board. In the first place, he thought it was an unfortunate circumstance that the unusually important Report of the Board had not yet been distributed to Members. He dared say it was not the fault of the Government, but he simply mentioned it as an unfortunate fact. He noticed from the Report that the Commissioners had instituted an Inquiry, and had asked for reports from all their inspectors on the payment by results system in Ireland. That system was an entirely antiquated one, and had been long ago abandoned in this country. It was in no way in the interests of good education, but did a vast deal of harm to the schools of the country, and ought to be abolished as soon as possible. He was also glad to find that the Commissioners had been led to do what they could to increase the amount of manual education in Irish schools. He did not refer simply to technical education, which he looked upon as a comparatively small part of the work of schools, but to manual education, such as was taught on the Swedish and Kindergarten system, which had hitherto been almost entirely unknown in Ireland outside one or two of the big towns. There was the greatest need for further manual education in all the schools throughout the country. He was glad to hear that the matter was to be dealt with, and he hoped the Chief Secretary would use his influence to expedite matters, and to get over any difficulties. There was also the matter of the need of further expenditure on the continuation schools in Ireland. Great progress had been made in England, chiefly owing to the work of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Rotherham when he was at the Board of Education, but in Ireland they had lagged behind. The payment given to the teacher in a case of a continuation school was not sufficient to induce any effort, and as there was a great need in the towns for a further development of these schools, he hoped the Chief Secretary would endeavour to get the same liberal grants for them as the Member for Rotherham got for similar schools in England. He also desired to call attention to the need of improving the position of the assistant teachers in schools. The present payment was only £63, and as that included the assistants in tolerably big schools in towns, it would be seen that in some cases the payment was very small. He noticed that there was no increase of expenditure on model schools. He did not object to model schools, though outside Dublin they existed almost entirely for the benefit of the Protestant population, and in the north mainly for the benefit of the Presbyterians. They were doing good work, and he should deprecate any interference with their work. He would ask, however, that the same principle should be applied all round. The Christian Brothers' schools were practically model schools for the Catholics and were one of the most effective educational agencies in the whole United Kingdom. There was no reason why the grant should not be given to them without raising any complicated questions. The principal matter, however, to which he wished to call attention was one which concerned the Secretary of the Treasury and the attack which he had thought fit to make on the Commissioners of National Education. The position of that Board was rather a peculiar one. There was nothing like it in England or Scotland. Ireland had the advantage of the unpaid services of the leading men of the country, and they received no reward whatever. What differences there might be as to the system, he should have thought that the Board deserved from Ministers somewhat more consideration than was ordinarily given to paid officials. Nevertheless the Secretary of the Treasury thought fit to make an attack on the Commissioners. In his speech on March 30th dealing with the question of the deficiency in the payments, the Secretary of the Treasury expressed surprise that the Commissioners—who were mainly Conservatives—had never raised the question until the present Government came into office. That was a most extraordinary charge. [*Cheers.*] It was an allegation that the Commissioners of Education had abstained from performing their proper duty by not demanding the sum to which they were entitled. ["No!"] Certainly there was an insinuation that the Commissioners had abstained from doing their duty for some political reason. ["Hear, hear!"] These gentlemen, who, whether Catholic or Protestant, were mainly Conservatives, had been accused of refraining from pressing their legitimate demand because it would embarrass the Home Rule Government then in office. A more absurd charge never was made by a Government in a difficulty to get out of that difficulty. What were the circumstances? It was undoubtedly a very large sum to which the National teachers would have been properly entitled. Altogether under the Act of 1892 £816,000 had been paid or voted for the purpose of free education, but if the proper sum had been voted it would have been £945,000, so that Ireland had been deprived of £129,000 to which she was properly entitled under the Probate Duty grants—9-80ths of the whole. The principle of that duty was that the different parts of the United Kingdom were to contribute to the common purse in certain proportions—that Ireland was to pay 9 per cent., Scotland 11 per cent., and England 80 per cent. In dividing up this money, which was in the nature of a grant for the relief of local taxation, it was held that, in accordance with those figures, Ireland should receive 9-80ths of the sum that England got. But, while year by year Ireland had been paying her full quota of taxation to the common purse, England had been taking out of that purse more than her fair share, and to the disadvantage of Ireland. Conduct of this kind between partners in ordinary business would give a right of action against the offending partner in the Court of law of any country where honesty was enforced, and the partner who had thus taken more than his fair share of the common purse would be ordered to refund that which he had fraudulently taken. ["Hear, hear!"] He claimed that this analogy of ordinary partnership should be applied to England in this case, and that the English Treasury should be called upon to refund the amount of which she had deprived Ireland. Explaining the circumstances under which Ireland came to lose the large amount referred to, the hon. Member pointed out that under the Irish Education Act of 1892 Ireland was to receive £210,000, or such amount as Parliament might determine, having regard to the fee grant under the English Act of the preceding year. But in the first year (1892) Ireland received only £156,000 in consequence of the Treasury having failed to take the necessary steps to get the money voted by the House before Parliament dissolved. The Commissioners of Irish National Education were, therefore, obliged, under the circumstances, to be content with what they could get from the Treasury, which was the amount for three-quarters of the year. But when the English Government discovered the mistake they had made, why did they not bring in a supplementary estimate to make the deficiency good? ["Hear, hear!"] The Commissioners claimed that deficiency as still due to them. ["Hear, hear!"] In the following year, 1893, Ireland was short by £31,000. At the time the Commissioners made their estimate for that year they had no means of knowing, and did not know, what would be the English estimate, so as to be able to fix the amount of the 9-80ths. But at that time the Treasury knew very well—must have known—what was going to be the claim of the English Department, and if they had shown common frankness and honesty, they would have communicated the fact to the Irish Education Board in order to enable them to make their estimate in just proportion. But they carefully concealed that fact, and even refused information on the matter when applied to. Those facts were a crying scandal. (*Nationalist cheers.*) It would be hard to find in the whole history of international relations a more open case of designed, conscious, and well-considered fraud. [*Nationalist cheers and loud Ministerial cries of* "Oh!"]

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. WODEHOUSE) did not think the hon. Gentleman was entitled to charge a Department with fraud.

MR. KNOX said it was impossible to describe it in any other way. [Mr. T. M. HEALY: "It is true!" *and several* HON. MEMBERS: "Stick to it."] He maintained that they were guilty of conduct which, had it taken place between private persons, would have been described as fraud by every Court in the wide world. ["Hear, hear!"] In 1895 the facts were discovered. He took the credit to himself that he discovered what was going on and called attention to the matter. During the financial year ending 1895 application was made for the arrears. Those arrears were refused. Then a claim was made for the deficit in the actual year in which they then were, and that was refused. [Mr. HANBURY: "By the late Government."] This was not a Party matter. There had been three Governments. [Mr. T. M. HEALY: "Forty thieves."]—a Conservative Government, a Liberal Government, and again a Conservative Government—and they all acted alike. [Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: "It was the Government of 1893."] It was the Government of 1892 which failed to put any estimate at all before Parliament and made no provision for carrying out the Act. He did not suppose any English gentleman were anxious to cheat the Irish—[Mr. T. M. HEALY: "I do"]—but they certainly persisted in refusing to do financial justice to Ireland. There was only one possible excuse for the late Government not paying the money, and that was that at the time they were hard up; that was the year in which they had great difficulty in squaring their accounts. The present Government could not offer such an excuse. They had plenty of money. There was, perhaps, some excuse for a man who was hard up not paying his debts. [Mr. HANBURY: "You are getting it this year."] Yes; but why should not the Government pay the arrears? Suppose a tenant who owed several years' rent only paid one year's, what would the landlord say? A process would issue. He asked them to apply the same principle to this national matter that they would apply in a case of an Irish tenant; he asked them to make restitution of the amount they had wrongfully taken. The matter was so plain that he did not wish to dwell further on the point. He now came to the principle which had been applied this year in making up the estimate. At last the Government had discovered that the principle of the nine-eightieths was not always an advantageous principle for England if strictly applied. When free education was introduced the Irish asked that the 10s. a head should be applied in the same way in Ireland as in England. That was refused because it would have meant too much money. The English population had increased and the Irish had decreased, especially the school-going population. Things had so changed that nine-eightieths would next year give to Ireland more than 10s. a head. He found that the Secretary to the Treasury on the 6th of July, in answer to a question of his, gave the following history of the matter :—

> "The Estimate first submitted by the Education Board put the grant for 1896-97 at nine-eightieths of the original estimate of the English grant for 1895-96, but it took the English grant of the past instead of the current year, an arrangemeut obviously disadvantageous to Ireland. Instead of this, the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Irish Office, now suggested that the new grant should not be calculated on the equivalent basis, but should be made a capitation grant as in England. The immediate effect of this proposal was to increase the estimate by about £12,000, and the Education Board accordingly accepted it, adding that they did so 'without prejudice to their claim for nine-eightieths of the English fee grant.'"

The Education Board made their estimates on the figures of a prior year. They put them in alternative form, asking for a particular sum, or for nine-eightieths of the English grant. They were refused both by the Treasury and by the English Education Department, information as to what the English education grant was. They then had a letter from the Treasury saying they would give them an estimate which would increase the amount by £12,000. It would turn out, however, that they would only get £3,000 even if there was no Supplementary Estimate for English free education this year. In certain circumstances the English Treasury would gain in future years, whilst the Irish Treasury would lose by the adoption of the principle which the English Treasury had so artfully substituted, for the principle which they had found might work against themselves. He asked that the Treasury should make restitution of the sums that had been kept back from Ireland, and that instead of trying to throw the blame upon gentlemen who were performing unpaid service in Ireland, the Treasury should acknowledge that it was itself in the wrong. He asked, in the second place, that in future the Government should keep to the principle laid down by the right hon. Member for St. George's Hanover Square, that Ireland's contribution should be nine-eightieths of the probate grants ; and, in the third place, he asked that the Irish National Board, upon whom the heavy responsibility of framing these estimates was placed, should be given at the earliest possible moment in each class the fullest information as to which was going to be the estimate, original and supplementary, for English education.

MR. H. O. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.) associated himself with the hon. Member opposite in his criticism of the policy of the Treasury. This was not a theoretical question, but a question which affected directly the incomes of school teachers in Ireland. In consequence of what had taken place there were teachers who were not receiving the addition which Parliament had intended that they should receive. That nine-eightieths of the probate grant would be applied to Irish purposes had been distinctly stated, but the understanding had not been kept. The Act of Parliament laid down that the grant should be £210,000, or such amount as Parliament might determine having regard to the amount of the grant under the English Elementary Education Act of 1891. The representatives of the Treasury said that the letter of the law had been observed because £210,000 had been given to Ireland in successive Sessions. The spirit of the Act, however, had not been complied with. It was impossible to know at the beginning of a year what would be the number of children in England entitled to the 10s. grant, and, therefore, a certain amount of the grant had been given at the beginning of the year and it had been supplemented afterwards. This supplementary grant to English schools, if it formed part of the grant first made, would have largely increased the sum divisible between this country and Ireland, and the result would have been a considerable addition to the amount available for Irish teachers. The arrears due to the National Board he calculated at £74,000, and he asserted emphatically that those arrears ought to be paid to the Board. He was not sanguine enough to hope that the whole amount would be paid over this year, but unless some arrangement was arrived at this question would be brought up again and again. ["Hear, hear!"] He suggested that the payment of the arrears might be spread over such a period as might be thought reasonable. He trusted they might have not only an acknowledgment of the justice of the claim made for this year and the coming year, but a clear promise also that these arrears would be paid back.

MR. CLANCY directed the attention of the Committee to the various pleas set up by the Secretary to the Treasury whenever this matter was brought before the House on previous occasions. The first answer which the right hon. Gentleman gave in reply to a question on this subject was, if he knew all the facts, a most disingenuous one. He stated on the 23rd March 1896, that—

> "up to the year 1894–5 the inclusive Estimate was accordingly fixed at £210,000 at the instance of the National Board for Ireland themselves."

The implication in that statement was perfectly clear. It was that the National Board knew what they had a right to claim, and they claimed that amount. The Report which had been referred to by his hon. Friend the Member for Londonderry contained 10 or 12 pages upon this subject, and it was absolutely impossible for any man to read that Report and afterwards to say what the Secretary to the Treasury said in that House on the 23rd of March. From the year 1893, when they first discovered they were entitled to more than the £210,000, the National Board every year, in one shape or another, made a demand for more money.

*MR. HANBURY was understood to dissent from the statement.

MR. CLANCY hoped the Secretary to the Treasury would not compel him to read the Report. What they said was that a Supplemental Estimate for £22,300 was submitted to Parliament by the Treasury as requisite for the purposes of the English grant for the year 1892-3,—

> "But this Estimate was not presented until the 14th of February 1893, whilst our Estimate for the Irish Grant for the year 1892–3 had to be forwarded by us to the Treasury on the 31st of the preceding month. At the time we neither knew, nor had we any reason to suppose, that the amount of the original Estimate for the English Grant as presented to Parliament in February 1892 was insufficient, and that a supplementary Estimate for a considerable amount would have to be presented before the end of the financial year in March."

They went on to say that—

> "It is essential to direct special attention to the dates. Our Estimate for 1893–4 has to be made up by our officials towards the close of the year 1892, and was forwarded to the Treasury in due course in January 1893."

That was in quite time enough for the Treasury to inform them of what they were going to do—

> "As a matter of course it was prepared on the only basis upon which it was then possible for us to proceed—namely, the £210,000 specifically mentioned in the Act of 1892. All that has been stated in connection with our Estimate for 1892–3 is equally applicable to that for 1893–4. The last-mentioned Estimate was, in fact, prepared and forwarded to the Treasury somewhat previous to the Estimate which had

> to be made out, under such exceptional circumstances, for the year 1892-3. Throughout all this time, as has been already stated, no supplementary Estimate had been presented for England, and nothing occurred to us to suggest that the amount specifically named in the Act, £210,000, the only amount then in question, did not adequately represent Ireland's share."

Would the right hon. Gentleman, after that statement, persist in saying or implying, as he did on the 23rd of March, that the Board knew their rights and asked for them. If the right hon. Gentleman did so after what he had read from the Report, the only conclusion he could come to was that he regarded the statements made by these gentlemen as false. The right hon. Gentleman now appeared to blame them for not putting forth their full demands in time. But the English Treasury knew what they ought to have demanded, and, knowing that, they kept silence—not only kept silence, but refused to answer their letters, and deprived them of the very information on the basis of which they might have made their demands. He had no hesitation in saying that that was a fraudulent and dishonest transaction. The words of the Act were that Ireland should receive £210,000 per annum, or whatever other sum corresponded in proportion to the amount of the grant which England received. Ireland was to have more or less given to her, having regard to the amount which was given to England. The proportion fixed by the statute was that 80 per cent. was to be given to England, 11 per cent. to Scotland, and 9 per cent. to Ireland. Those were the amounts which the Parliament of 1892 fixed as the several proportions which the three countries were to receive. But, in fact, Ireland had never received her due proportion of the grant, and the Estimates had not been increased as they should have been in order to enable Ireland to receive her fair proportion of the grant. The right hon. Gentleman had said that that was the fault of the last Government, and not of the present Government. He did not care in the least which Government was in fault, because both Governments appeared to be acting together in this matter with the view of depriving Ireland of her just rights. In his view, both Conservative and Liberal Governments had robbed Ireland of her due share of the grant. The Treasury appeared to be masters of the situation, notwithstanding the clear and distinct provisions of the Act of Parliament. The next point taken on behalf of the Government was that the Irish Members had not objected to the course that had been taken. But the Irish Members did object to it in 1894.

*Mr. HANBURY said that the Irish Board of National Education had not objected to it.

Mr. CLANCY said that the Irish Board had not objected to it because they were kept in ignorance of the circumstances. The Irish Members had been guilty of the folly of putting their trust in the Irish Board, and now a Treasury official came down to that House and said that the Irish Board did not complain. It was perfectly monstrous that the Government should act in such a matter. He did not believe that any change had ever been voluntarily made by the English Government in favour of Ireland; on the contrary, whatever change was made in the arrangement was sure to be to the disadvantage of that country. It was obvious that as the population of England was increasing and that of Ireland was diminishing, the former would in the future receive an increased grant and the latter a decreased grant, and, therefore, if population were to be taken as the basis of the grant, Ireland would not receive her allocated proportion of it. He hoped the admission of the circumstances would be acted on by the right hon. Gentleman in practice, and that he would not take advantage of the ignorance of the Education Board. He believed that all [speeches addressed to the Secretary to the Treasury were perfectly fruitless. The Treasury had made up their minds. They had their accounts cooked. They kept their opinion to themselves. They were kept, he believed, even from the Chief Secretary himself. But he would address himself to the Chief Secretary, and ask him whether he was content that Ireland should be cheated in this manner by the English Treasury. The right hon. Gentleman was supposed to be the guardian of the interests of Ireland. Was he going to take up the line of the National Board, or the line which would undoubtedly be taken by the Secretary to the Treasury? The constitution of the National Board was well-known. They were all men of eminent position. They had no sympathy with the National movement in Ireland, or, so far as he knew, with the attacks upon England. They had simply found out that a glaring piece of jobbery was being practised at the expense of the country in which they lived, and, being Irishmen, they had—and he said it to their credit—declared in the most emphatic manner that it was a piece of dishonesty. Was the right hon. Gentleman going to take their side in this case or the side of the English Treasury which had, through the mouth of its officials that night, virtually called them liars?

*Mr. HANBURY rose to reply, but gave way to

Mr. T. M. HEALY, who said he objected altogether to the right hon. Gentleman replying. The Government ought to have the Chancellor of the Exchequer there. The Secretary to the Treasury was only a subordinate official, and he objected to a subordinate official being allowed to get up and repeat the answers he had given to his hon. Friend. [*Cheers.*] This was a matter of vital principle to Irishmen, and they would not take the replies of the right hon. Gentleman. The British Chancellor of the Exchequer was responsible to them in this matter, and he ought to be present listening to the Debate. It had been shown on incontrovertible evidence that Ireland was being robbed of £125,000, and were they to be replied to by a mere Barabbas on the Treasury Bench? [*Cries of* "Order!" *and* "Withdraw."]

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wodehouse): The hon. Member will feel, I am sure, that that is not a proper expression to use, and I hope he will withdraw it. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. T. M. HEALY: The Colonial Secretary was allowed to call Mr. Gladstone Herod. ["Order!" *and* "Withdraw."

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): I beg pardon, Sir; I never did anything of the kind.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wodehouse): I hope the hon. Member will withdraw the expression.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I will do so, Sir; but I say the right hon. Gentleman is a committed party, and he ought, at any rate, to have the good sense to hold his tongue in this business. If the right hon. Gentleman carried into his private life and his private business this system of conducting transactions, he would say the less anyone had to do with them the better. [*Cheers and cries of* "Oh!"] This was only a matter of £125,000, but it was of the system of the robbery of Ireland. Irishmen had proved that they had been robbed of £3,000,000 per annum since the Union, and this particular sum had been ear-marked for Ireland. It was only the National teachers of Ireland who had been robbed, but the principle was the same. The Secretary to the Treasury said, "Why did not the Irish Members find this out before?" [At this point the Chancellor of the Exchequer entered the House.] He saw it was a laughing matter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Colonial Secretary. It might be that the right hon. Gentleman had never heard of the matter before; but he would like to give him the defence of his subordinate.

The Secretary to the Treasury said that the Irish Members should have known of this before. If he was going along the street and somebody picked his pocket and he was unaware of the fact, was that acquiescence in the robbery? That was the defence of the Secretary to the Treasury. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer made a bargain with Ireland in 1881 and ear-marked the amount Ireland was to get as nine-eightieths. She had not got it. In 1896 they had got the full amount of nine-eightieths, but they wanted the money back for 1895, 1894, 1893, and 1892. The Scotch, too, had been robbed of £30,000. Fancy, £30,000 in bawbees! [*Loud laughter.*] The Irish admittedly had been robbed of £125,000. Who had got the money—the predominant partner? The predominant thief. [*Nationalist cheers.*] This was a laughing matter to gentlemen with £5,000 a year, but it was no laughing matter to the poor teacher with £1 a week. It was £125,000 this year; it might be a million next year. So this atrocious system of misgovernment by aliens would continue, with only a feeble protest by those who happened to be in the House. The National Board applied to the Treasury for information, and they refused it. The Board applied to the English Education Department, and, in collusion with the Treasury, information as to the amount coming to Ireland was refused again. [*Laughter.*] Yes, but would their laughter put the money into the pockets of the Irish teachers? Do them the decency not to laugh at them after robbing them. He was glad that Lord Justice Fitzgibbon had resigned, and he believed that he had resigned as a protest against such treatment. He expected before long more resignations; he hoped there would be. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer denied them justice he did not see how any self-respecting member of the Board could remain a member. If they had demanded more than their share, would they have got it? They had not demanded their proper share, and the Treasury exclaimed—

> "These ignorant Irish, this unpaid Board, do not ask for the £125,000 to which they are entitled. We are the predominant partner, and we will put it into our predominant pocket."

Although the matter was a small one in amount it was a large one in point of principle. What the Nationalist Members wanted was the basis of the settlement of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1891. The whole transaction was a disgrace to England. It was like levying a charge upon India for the Soudanese expedition—exactly the same kind of thing, only a little more shady. He asked any Unionist—was it any wonder they kicked against the Union? If the Treasury would not yield to necessity let them yield to arithmetic. Let them keep to the engagements they had made. The Nationalists would bring it up again and rub it in until they were sick of the subject, as the Nationalists of Ireland were sick of any union—political or financial—with England. [*Irish cheers.*]

*Mr. HANBURY, in replying on behalf of the Treasury, said it was not necessary to go into the large question of the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland, for a Commission was now considering it. It would be enough for him to deal with the issue before the Committee. The hon. Member for Derry had fairly presented the leading facts of the case. He did not dispute either his figures or his dates. In spite of the rather violent attack made upon himself by the hon. Member for Louth, his one desire, as far as he had any influence, was to do the fullest justice to Ireland. What was the real difficulty of the case? That they were merely carrying out the statute enacted by Parliament and the practice of the late Parliament, and there must be a certain amount of continuity in these matters. The policy now condemned by the Irish Members was not the policy of the present Government. The Act of Parliament distinctly laid down two alternatives—that Ireland should receive £210,000, or such other sum as Parliament should decide.

MR. CLANCY: Having regard to the English fee grant.

*MR. HANBURY: Yes; he should have stated that. But Parliament did undoubtedly, under the directions of the Government then in power, vote £210,000. The complaint of Irish Members generally against the present Government was that they did not carry out the policy of the late Government in Irish matters. But in this matter the present Government were carrying out the policy of the late Government—a policy embodied in an Act of Parliament—and yet attacks were made upon them. He should say that there had been neglect both on the part of the Irish Members and on the part of the Commissioners of National Education in not applying for Ireland's full share of the grant. It could not be said that that neglect was entirely due to ignorance of the position of affairs. There was a Statute in existence, and if the Irish Members had paid attention to the needs of Ireland they would have seen from that Statute that the £210,000 was not necessarily the full amount.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Why, we had to whip you into honesty. [*Nationalist cheers.*]

*MR. HANBURY said the contention was that the duty of applying for the full amount ought to have been discharged by the Treasury. But it was not the duty of the Treasury to frame the Estimates of the various Departments. The Estimates had to be submitted to the Treasury by the Departments, and it was the duty of the Treasury to cut down rather than to increase those Estimates. But the Treasury did not cut down the Estimates in this particular instance—they granted the whole amount asked for by the Irish Commissioners of Education. Of course, if it were the fact that information as to the exact amount was refused by the Treasury, under the late Government to the Commissioners, he was not ashamed to say that the Treasury ought not to have refused it. However, it was not until the end of 1894 that the hon. Member for Derry discovered that during the two preceding years the full 9-80ths had not been given to Ireland, and an appeal was made to the Treasury for the arrears. It was impossible for the Treasury to open up the accounts for 1893–4, but as the appeal was made to the Treasury before the year 1894–5 had expired it was possible for the Treasury to grant the whole 9-80ths for that year, but it was refused by the late Government. But the present Government had not treated Ireland in that fashion. Hon. Gentlemen opposite were bound to admit that the present Government had given in the year for which they were responsible the whole of the 9-80ths to which Ireland was entitled. He had been accused of charging the Commissioners with not having claimed the whole of the nine-eightieths before because their Party were in power. That charge was based upon a misapprehension. What he had said was that the Commissioners had never raised the question until 1894, and that possibly the Irish Members had not raised the question because the Party with which they were connected were in power. He had never suggested that the Commissioners had not acted because a certain Party were in power. He had, he thought, shown that there must be a certain amount of continuity of policy in these matters, and that the present Government could not undo the action of the late Government up to the year 1894–5 inclusive. He had also shown that during the year that the present Government had been in office they had given Ireland the whole amount to which she was entitled. But then it was said that they had made a certain alteration this year because they wanted to evade giving Ireland in the future the whole nine-eightieths.

He held that a charge of that kind ought not to be made unless there was more foundation for it than the speech of the hon. and learned Member for Louth disclosed. What were the facts? The amount of the capitation grant given this year was considerably in excess of what was granted last year, and more than nine-eightieths of the original English grant for this year. [Mr. T. M. HEALY: "Keep it, and give us our money."] If hon. Members did not want the extra £2,000 or £3,000 that the Treasury was giving to Ireland, the Department had no wish to press it upon them. In fact it looked rather as if the Government were giving more than was absolutely necessary. [*Laughter from the Nationalist Members.*] He wondered whether the hon. and learned Member for Louth had read the last Report of the Public Accounts Committee presided over by the hon. Member for East Donegal. That Committee, in going through the appropriation accounts for 1894–5, were struck by the fact that the National Education Commissioners had returned £866 out of the sum of £210,000. The hon. Member for Louth would doubtless say that it was the wicked Treasury which had forced them to refund this amount; but that was not the opinion of the hon. and learned Member for East Donegal. The Committee said that it was agreed by the Comptroller and Auditor General and by the Treasury that this balance of £866 might have been expended instead of surrendered. It might be assumed that the Education Commissioners had some difficulty in distributing the whole of the money.

MR. ARTHUR O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.) said that the report to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred had not yet been circulated. As the right hon. Gentleman appeared to be anxious to cast some responsibility upon him, he would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether in the Committee he did not bring the matter forward and urge upon the right hon. Gentleman that there ought to have been no surrender to the Exchequer of the amount in question? ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. Hanbury.*

*MR. HANBURY admitted that that was so, and said that he was about to give the same explanation to the Committee. He agreed with the hon. Member for East Donegal that the National Commissioners would have been perfectly justified if they had not returned this money. But they did return it, and the presumption was that they were not able to spend the money. However, this year the Government had raised the Estimate to £255,000. If the English Supplementary Estimate this year was only up to the level of the Estimate for last year, the amount that was being given to Ireland would be about equal to 9-80ths of the original and supplementary English grants. In addition to that, the present Government, having already provided a sum which they anticipated would be fully equal in the year that was coming, as in the past year, to 9-80ths of the total English grant, was also going to grant a sum of £10,000 towards the teachers' pension fund. He thought, therefore, he had shown that, whatever might have been the faults of the late Board of Treasury—and he did not want to defend them—at any rate since the Unionist Government had come into power they had dealt honestly by Ireland in this matter, and had not only given the whole 9-80ths, but were going to exceed it this year by £10,000.

MR. FIELD called attention to some of the grievances of Irish national teachers. In his opinion the Irish teachers ought to receive at least the same salaries as were granted to English teachers. Again, the system of payment by results still continued in Ireland, although it was discontinued in England. Some time since an Act was passed to grant a certain amount of public money to the teaching of agriculture, but so far as he was aware no money had been actually devoted to this purpose up to the present.

The absence of proper school apparatus was also very much complained of, and in many instances the teachers were badly housed. The teachers' pension fund also was in a most unsatisfactory position, the accounts not having been properly audited for the past 12 or 13 years, and the quinquennial report of the Treasury not having been furnished for 10 years the teachers really did not know how the matter stood. With regard to the £125,000, he thought the reply of the Secretary to the Treasury was eminently unsatisfactory. He was entitled to the restitution, and the money which was owing to them by reason of the solemn agreement made by a former Chancellor of the Exchequer. He, as a business man, could not understand the morality of the arguments brought forward by the right hon. Gentleman. He trusted that before the Debate ended the the Chancellor of the Exchequer would give a more reassuring reply to the Irish Members in regard to this question, for he could assure the Committee they were not going to allow it to rest.

MR. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour) said it was impossible for the right hon. Gentleman to acquit the Treasury of culpable negligence in connection with this transaction. The words of the Act were, "£210,000 or such other amount as Parliament may determine, having regard to the amount of the free grant of the English Elementary Education Act, 1891." It was the duty of the Treasury to supply the National Board of Education with the necessary information. The right hon. Gentleman said that in the past two alternative propositions were made to Parliament—(1), the payment of £210,000 ; (2), the other, the voting of nine-eightieths; and Parliament elected to vote the £210,000. That was not how the matter stood. Parliament was not put in possession by the Treasury of that which the Act directed them to give—namely, the alternatives. But someone appeared to have supplied information in connection with the annual provision for Scotland and their proportion of the Free Education Grant, but no such information had been supplied to the Irish Commissioners. The right hon. Gentleman said that what the Commissioners applied for they got, but the Report showed that there was some correspondence between the Commissioners and the Treasury, a portion of which had evidently not been published. The Commissioners said :—

> "Accordingly, when the preparation of our Estimates for the financial year 1894-5 was about to be taken in hand in the autumn of 1893, we called the attention of the Treasury to the provision in the Irish Act of 1892 which regulated the amount of the Irish Grant 9-80ths. In consequence of the reply then received we did not insert in our Estimates for the then coming year 1894-5 any other amount than the £210,000 originally mentioned in the Act."

He wanted to know what the reply of the Treasury was, because it was clear that the Commissioners were precluded from publishing it ; but in consequence of the reply they received only £210,000 was presented. How, then, could the right hon. Gentleman maintain that any portion of responsibility attached to the Commissioners for what had occurred. He thought that the answer of the right hon. Gentleman was most unsatisfactory. It was not the ordinary charges that would suffer by the smaller amount voted, but it was an amount that would have gone into the pockets of the national teachers. If the £210,000 had been given to the National Commissioners, they would have distributed it to the teachers in accordance with the scale of grants apportioned by them ; but because it was not given to them, and because they happened to have £9,000 to spare, it was, therefore, forsooth, endeavoured to be proved that they did not really require the other amount at all. The mere fact of the return of the £9,000 was not a shadow of an argument against the claim which the Commissioners had for the whole amount. If the right hon. Gentleman would read the Report of the Commissioners, he would see that every year application was made by the

Commissioners for information on the question both to the Irish Government and to the Treasury, and upon no occasion could they get the necessary information to enable them to put that Estimate before them. They also stated that they had no basis on which they could form an estimate except the £210,000, and they implied that the Treasury precluded them from making an estimate for any larger sum than the £210,000, and he charged it as the duty of the right hon. Gentleman to find out why it was that the Treasury, though they had two alternatives in the Act of Parliament, tied the Commissioners down to the one alternative, and gave them no opportunity of presenting another Estimate.

MR. EDWARD CARSON (Dublin University) thought it was impossible the Government should understand that Members of all political opinions for Ireland were entirely united upon this question. For his own part, although in one respect he thought the reply of the Financial Secretary was entirely satisfactory—namely, as to what the Government intended to do in the matter of refunding this money which was plainly owing to Ireland—it was entirely unsatisfactory. He was glad the Financial Secretary had been able to announce that at all events the present Government would be no party, in the financial years over which they had control, to taking from Ireland the sum which was due under the Act of Parliament, and under the compact entered into in 1891. That was so far satisfactory, and he would have been glad if the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, or somebody who had control of the finances at the time that this petty pilfering from Ireland went on, had been present to explain under what circumstances they thought themselves justified in refusing to Ireland her proper proportion of this grant. Various reasons had been put forward. It had been suggested that it might have been a mistake. Whenever the Treasury made a mistake, they always made it, he feared, against their poor country. But, if it was a mistake, surely that great Department and that great English Government were not going, because a mistake was made, to take away from the Education Board in Ireland this to them enormous sum of £125,000. It had been said it might have been negligence on the part of the Treasury. It was also suggested, and he might say entirely, as it seemed to him, without ground, that it might have been negligence on the part of the National Board. Even if it was so, were the national teachers in Ireland—because he believed it really came out of their pockets—to be deprived of this very substantial sum of money? There was only one other way in which it could have occurred, and that was that it was done purposely by the Treasury. He could hardly believe that the Treasury would have purposely perpetrated an act of that kind; but he must say, in view of the correspondence read out from this Report, it seemed to him that the Treasury, to say the least of it, sat rather tight on the information in their possession, and were very much inclined to put off as eminent and as trustworthy a body of men as there was in Ireland by giving them the very scantiest information possible. How did the matter stand? Simply in this way. An agreement was come to, an agreement sanctioned by Act of Parliament in 1891, that a certain portion of these duties should go to Ireland as an education grant. It was not denied by the Secretary to the Treasury that they had had it. It was admitted that the sum was in or about £125,000. What was the sole explanation given by the Secretary to the Treasury? It was that this had already happened in the Treasury, and they must have a continuity of policy. If they put it as a question of continuity, it was a continuity of wrong, and did the Treasury really mean to suggest that, when there had been a wrong of this kind perpetrated towards Ireland, they were not going to try to find some remedy by which this money should be returned to the National Board. [*Cheers.*] He knew that all the Chief Secretary's sympathies were with Ireland, and he thought it was the right hon. Gentleman's business to fight the Treasury to the bitter end over this question. [*Cheers.*] This was no question of politics, and whenever hon. Members opposite claimed that this money should be repaid to Ireland he should be always most ready to support them. [*Cheers.*]

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) remarked that, when the present Government came into office, they carefully examined this matter in the light of what happened in the past, and they were completely satisfied that the course which had been followed was not one in their judgment that was proper and right. They therefore decided, in the first place, to give to Ireland as much as had been claimed for the year 1895-6. Further, having in view the utter impracticability and want of logic of the system under which the fee grant to Ireland had been fixed—not in regard to the number of children attending schools in Ireland, but with regard to the number attending schools in England—which was quite another thing—they decided, after conferring with the Irish Government and the Irish National Board, to alter that system, as they were advised they could under the provisions of the Act of 1892, in order to give to Ireland the same fee grant as was now given to England of 10s. per child in attendance. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Member for Louth rather seemed to object to that principle for the coming year. All he could say was that, in his belief, it would give to Ireland more than she would obtain under the system of 9-80ths, and certainly much more if, as they hoped, compulsory education before long should be introduced into that country. ["Hear, hear!"] As to the past, the present Government were not responsible for what occurred from 1892 to 1895. During those years the grants Ireland recieved were, as his right hon. Friend said, the grants which were asked for by the National Board. They were not, as it appeared now, what the National Board might have asked for at the time, and what probably would have been given if they had been asked for; therefore, hon. Members asked that payments should now be made to Ireland in respect of what were called arrears. He was bound to say he utterly demurred to the calculation of those arrears, which he did not think could be brought to anything like the sums named. As had already been stated, in the course of the present year they were going to give £10,000 towards the deficiency in the Irish Teachers' Pension Fund. That amount of £10,000, he was afraid, would have to be continued for a considerable time, and, in his belief, what they should have to give in making up the deficiency in the Pension Fund would far more than compensate for the amount claimed to be due by hon. Members opposite, which could not now be divided among the teachers between 1892 and 1895, because of the changes that had occurred. The Government had, therefore, chosen the only practical way to remedy what certainly in his mind was an injustice. [*Cheers.*]

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

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## WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

## RAILWAYS (IRELAND) [ADVANCES].

Committee thereupon deferred till Tuesday next.

## MILITARY WORKS [MONEY].

Committee thereupon deferred till Monday next.

## MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [15th May] further adjourned till Monday next.

## LAW AGENTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Third Reading deferred till Monday next.

## BOARDS OF GUARDIANS AND LABOURERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

## SEA FISHERIES REGULATION (SCOTLAND) ACT (1895) AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

## METROPOLITAN SEWERS AND DRAINS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday, next.

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## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he had promised to make known as early as possible the terms of his Motion with regard to the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule on Monday and for the remainder of the Session. He proposed to place on the Paper a Motion couched in precisely the same terms as the notice of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Monmouth. He wished to state that he proposed to make another Motion with regard to the proceedings in Committee on the Irish Land Bill. The House would remember that when they separated last night the Motion before the Committee was the omission of Clause 4 of the Bill. The Motion was put under some misapprehension, and the best plan of getting over the difficulty would be to move, under the new Standing Order passed at the beginning of the Session, dealing with clauses to be omitted from a Bill. In that he should include not merely Clause 4, but also Clauses 5, 13, 14, and 15—["Hear, hear!"]—and in making that announcement it might be convenient to state that he should make the Motion with regard to Clause 4 with a different intention as compared with Clauses 5, 13, 14, and 15. He proposed to omit these clauses permanently from the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] Clause 4 would be put down again as a new clause in an amended form with which the House was more or less familiar. He trusted that this course might be approved by the House without any prolonged discussion on Monday. He moved the adjournment of the House.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that in his opinion this proposal of the right hon. Gentleman would greatly facilitate the passage of the Bill, and he congratulated the Government on the omission of these clauses. He hoped that when the Government brought up Clause 4 effectively it would be with the firm intention of passing it.

DR. TANNER thought that the statement of the right hon. Gentleman with regard to Clause 4 was going back on the idea which the whole House held upon the subject last evening. He thought that some intimation ought to have been given to both sides of the House as to the statement which the right hon. Gentleman had made, and he did not think the Leader of the House had tended in any way to abbreviate discussion by taking what he could not refrain from calling an unfair advantage.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY hoped he would be able on Monday to convince the hon. Member who had just spoken that the course he had taken was the proper course. In answer to the hon. Member for Louth, he had to say that Clause 4 would come up at the end of the Bill, and they had not the slightest intention of hazarding the clause by forcing it through. They would bring it forward in a form in which it would be far easier to discuss than if they introduced seriatim the Amendments put down by the Chief Secretary.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) asked whether Clause 4, whenever it was brought up, would be exactly as they now saw it on the separate paper? Would it be absolutely unchanged?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Yes, exactly as it is now on the separate paper.

MR. HUBERT DUNCOMBE (Cumberland, Egremont) asked if the Government proposed between now and the end of the Session to afford any time whatever to any private Bill?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that would be a proper question for his hon. Friend to put to him on Monday, when he should have to make a general statement as to business in asking for the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule.

House adjourned at a Quarter after Twelve o'clock till Monday next.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Monday, 20th July 1896.*

## COMMISSION.

The following Bills have received the Royal Assent:—

Agricultural Land Rating.
Belfast Street Tramways.
Blackpool Improvement.
Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramroads.
Blackpool, St. Anne's, and Lytham Tramways.
Boyne Navigation Transfer.
Brighton Corporation (Water).
Burntisland Harbour.
Burton-upon-Trent Corporation.
Caledonian Railway.
Chamber's Estate.
Culter Water Order Confirmation.
Dalmeny and Kirkliston Water Provisional Order.
Diseases of Animals.
East Surrey Water.
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3).
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4).
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5).
Falmouth Rectory.
Fisheries Acts (Norfolk and Suffolk) Amendment.
Foyle College and Londonderry Academical Institution (Amalgamation).
Freshwater, Yarmouth and Newport Railway.
Gas and Water Provisional Orders.
Glasgow Parliamentary Divisions.
Great Northern Railway.
Great Western Railway (Denbighshire Railways).
Incumbents of Benefices Loans Extension.
Kelty Water Provisional Order.
Kirkcaldy and Dysart Water.
Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.
Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North Western Railway Companies.
Leamington Corporation.
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 9).
Local Government Provisional Order (Ports).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 18).
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 19).
Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas).
Local Government Provisional Order (Warrington).
London and North Western Railway.
London Brighton and South Coast Railway.
London Sea Water Supply.
Matlock Bath Gas.
Metropolitan District Railway.
Military Lands Provisional Orders.
Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas.
North British Railway.
North Cornwall Railway.
North Eastern Railway.
North Wales Counties Lunatic Asylum (Water).
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4).
Pilotage Provisional Order.
Port Talbot Railway and Docks (Ogmore Valleys Extension).
Portsmouth (Borough) Water.
Portsmouth Street Tramways.
Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation).
Sheffield Corporation Tramways.
Short Titles.
South Eastern Railway.
Swansea Harbour.
Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 1).
Waterford Corporation.
Weaver Navigation.
Yeovil Corporation (Water).

The Commissioners were the LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord Halsbury), the EARL OF LIMERICK, and LORD BALFOUR (Secretary for Scotland).

## PRIVATE BUSINESS.

### ORKNEY AND ZETLAND SMALL PIERS AND HARBOURS BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived; the Report of Amendments to be received To-morrow.

### WATER PROVISIONAL ORDERS BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

### LIVERPOOL COURT OF PASSAGE BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

## MASSACRE NEAR KHARPUT (REPORTED).

*LORD STANMORE asked the noble Marquess at the head of the Government a question of which he had given him private notice—namely, whether the Foreign Office had received any official intelligence with regard to the alleged massacre of 400 Christians quite recently in the neighbourhood of Kharput, or as to the events which were said to have recently taken place at Van, the accounts of which, to anyone who knew the state of matters there, were simply unintelligible. He asked the question because the official accounts given of these matters by the Turkish Government, stating, as they did, that no excesses whatever had been committed by the Turkish troops in any part of Asia Minor at any time, were manifestly unreliable; while the efforts of the Turkish officials to exclude information by a system of strict censorship over telegrams and the Post Office had been only too successful, so that the official Reports of Her Majesty's Consular officers afforded the only accurate and impartial accounts available. As such written Reports could not be received and published for some time, perhaps his noble Friend would not object to state whether the Foreign Office had received any telegraphic intelligence on these subjects. He would make no comment on the question except this—that, though really unavoidable, the necessary delay in the publication of such Consular Reports was to be regretted; for, when they were published, the incidents to which they related were at least half-forgotten, and they were little read. He was afraid, from the inquiries he had made, that comparatively few of their Lordships had read even the Report of Consul Fitzmaurice of the way in which last Christmas was kept in Urfa. He could commend it to their Lordships as more full of horror and interest than any sensational novel, and those who had read it would hope with him that the recurrence of such acts might be speedily rendered impossible.

THE PRIME MINISTER (THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY): I only received my noble Friend's notice a very short time ago, and I have not had time to send to the Foreign Office in order to ascertain whether there are any Papers such as he would wish to have in existence. I have no doubt we should have some information with respect to this case, but whether its details are abundant or not may depend upon a variety of accidents. I will send for the Papers and examine them, and see if there is anything which seems to me ought to be laid specially upon the Table. I need not say there is not the slightest objection to lay documents of this kind on the Table if Parliament desires to see them. I cannot pass away, without a note of doubt, from my noble Friend's intimation that it is desirable that these horrors should be known as speedily as possible, in order that they may attract the greatest possible amount of attention. If there were only Christians in the world, I should admit that might be the case; but the effect, of course, of a great amount of attention here is an equal amount of attention on the spot; and the effect of the Reports that are made, and the comments made upon these Reports in this country, is not, perhaps, all my noble Friend would desire when they get back to the Mahommedan population of Asia Minor. I do not think the expression of opinion here has any effect whatever in restraining the action of the wild population who are guilty of those horrors. Of course, what is said here may have the effect of increasing the intensity of feeling between Mussulman and Christian, and that intensity of feeling is precisely what, I think, every friend of humanity must wish to diminish as rapidly as he can. ["Hear, hear!"] I shall not refuse anything my noble Friend may wish to see, but I do not think it is desirable that we should lay too many papers of this kind on the Table, especially at a time when, unhappily, in other parts of the Turkish Empire there are causes enough of disturbance and every ground for increasing the apprehensions with which the relations of the two sections of population must be regarded.

## YEOMANRY (LONG SERVICE MEDAL).

**Viscount GALWAY** said that, in rising to ask the Question of which he had given notice, he hoped he might be permitted to think that the War Office had the welfare of the Yeomanry at heart. Certainly, during the last few years, the Yeomanry had made enormous improvements, and during no time more than the last eight years, since which time they had been taking their proper place among the reserve forces of the country, and were now on a mobilisation scheme. It would be impossible for this country to have a cheaper reserve force than the Yeomanry, because, for a Vote he thought, of under some £80,000 they got 10,000 men, with their uniform, arms, accoutrements, and horses, ready to turn out in defence of the country at a moment's notice. He would like to remind their Lordships that the long-service medal was issued to all Volunteers who had served for twenty years, and he ventured to think that the claims of the Yeomanry to a long-service medal were equally strong. Certainly the Yeomanry themselves felt they spent more money for the defence of the country than did the Volunteers. It might be said that during the time of their permanent training the Yeomanry received pay and the Volunteers did not, but he would remind their Lordships that during the time the Volunteers went out into camp, their commanding officer received a sum of money from the authorities which practically paid for their board, and, as they had their tents also, it might be said that during the whole of their training it cost the Volunteers nothing. In the case of the Yeomanry, they had to find not only lodgings for themselves, but also stabling and keep for their horses during the whole week of their training. The Yeomanry, too, in perfecting themselves in musketry training, which was so much desired, and which commanding officers were all anxious to facilitate, had long distances to go at their own expense. It was quite true that a few years ago 3s. 6d. was granted for one day for every private who got a third class in musketry, but everything else he had to pay, and the shooting was entirely at the officers' expense. He should like to know what reasonable objection could be urged against the scheme? He hardly liked to think that, in a small question like this, they would be met as they very often were by the authorities of the Treasury. It would cost very little, and he did not think the question of expense could really be raised as an objection. He was told that another objection was that, if they gave the medal to the Yeomanry, it could not be refused to the Militia. He had no objection, if the Government liked to give it to the Militia as well, but he would remind their Lordships that the Yeomanry were really of a different class to the men found in the Militia. The Yeomanry spent their own money during their training, and he did not think they could say the Militia often did that. During the whole of the year, too, the Yeoman had a horse at the service of the Government whenever he was called upon to serve the country; whereas, in the case of the Militia, even the man's boots were taken into store during the time he was not up for training; so that, in the matter of rapid mobilisation, the Yeomanry were far superior to the Militia. He did not wish, in anything he said, to disparage the zeal and efficiency of the other branches of the reserve forces. He only used this as an argument to prove that the Yeomanry were as equally entitled to the long-service medal as the Volunteers and the Militia. He would like to say that the grant of a decoration would be taken as a great compliment by those of the Yeomanry who had served so long and spent so much money. Their Lordships might be quite sure that no one would stay for 20 years who was not a keen soldier, and who was not interested in the force to which he belonged. About a year and a-half ago, in the time of the predecessor of the noble Marquess, a circular was sent to the commanding officers asking them if they thought their men would like this long-service medal. There was not sufficient time then for all the commanding officers to find out what was the feeling of the force, but he had now had letters or verbal messages from every one of the 38 commanding officers, to say that there was a great desire amongst the Yeomanry to have the decoration, and that they were confident that it would be really a great service and benefit to the force at large. He therefore begged to ask the Secretary of State for War if Her Majesty's Government would take into consideration the strong claims of the Yeomanry Cavalry to a special long-service decoration and medal?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE): The suggestion which my noble Friend has made is one which has on several occasions been before the War Office, and it has certainly been considered in a spirit not unfriendly to the force of which my noble Friend is so conspicuous a member. But I am sorry to say that the conclusion has always been one adverse to the proposal which he has laid before the House. My noble Friend and the House, are no doubt aware that at present this long-service decoration is given only to the Volunteers. The Regular Army does not receive it, the Militia does not receive it, and the Yeomanry does not receive it, and I have no doubt the line that has hitherto been drawn has been drawn where you have a division between the forces which receive pay and those which do not. I have conferred with my military advisers upon this point, and they are unanimously of opinion that it would not be a wise thing to extend this decoration, which is specially a Volunteer decoration, to any of the other parts of the Army. And amongst other reasons which are given is the reason that in the case of the Yeomanry it is by no means clear that it is desirable to encourage a Yeoman to prolong his service for so long a time as the 20 years which would entitle him to the decoration. I can assure my noble Friend that I can concur with all that was said by him with regard to the credit due to the Yeomanry for the pains which that force has taken to render itself efficient during the last few years, and it is with great regret that I intimate to him a decision which I am afraid is not that which he desires.

THE EARL OF CORK, as on old Yeomanry Officer, desired to say that he entirely concurred in the remarks of the noble Viscount opposite, and at the same time to express his regret that the reply of the noble Marquess had not been more satisfactory. The noble Marquess based his objection to the granting of this decoration somewhat on the ground that it was not desirable perhaps that service in the Yeomanry should be too extended. With that remark he entirely agreed. He thought it was a great mistake to have too many old soldiers in a Yeomanry regiment. But there were classes of men in every Yeomanry regiment who were of great use not only in managing the affairs of the troops, but also in getting recruits. These were the quarter-masters and the sergeant-majors, and these were, he believed, the men who chiefly desired to have this decoration. He candidly admitted that a few years ago he was not so favourable to this decoration being extended to the Yeomanry service, but within the last two years his opinion had been entirely altered in consequence of these classes of men considering themselves that a kind of slur had been passed upon them when they saw their colleagues in the Volunteer force, perhaps in the same town, with the decoration that they were not permitted to wear themselves. He thought that even if it were necessary to extend the decoration to the Militia there would not be very great difficulty in doing so, for he did not imagine that many Militia Officers or men were in a position to obtain the Order, which he understood was only obtainable after 20 years' service. He would, however, ask the noble Lord to reconsider his decision, for he could assure him that the matter very much affected the Yeomanry service, which had for a long time been doing its best to maintain a condition of high efficiency, as proved by the reports of the inspecting officers.

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## JUDICIAL TRUSTEES BILL.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, explained that it originated in proposals which he had more than once passed through the House for the appointment of a public trustee, and which he would have preferred to see carried out. But the present Bill was the result of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and followed a system which had been successful in Scotland. Looking upon it as a step in the direction which he desired, and coming as it did from the other House with the assent of both sides, he desired to give it assistance. Its object was to appoint judicial trustees, to lessen the severity of the law against trustees, and to enable the Courts to give some remuneration to the judicial trustees, etc., appointed, who were to be under the supervision of the Courts, and, if no one else could be appointed, to appoint officers of the Courts to take upon themselves the duties. Also, in the event of an application being made to enable one of those judicial trustees to be appointed as an executor or administrator, as the case might be, where there was no one who would take that office upon himself. The old law had been very harsh indeed against trustees, and the result had been to create great difficulty in finding fit persons to take the office. Very great reluctance had been shown, in the circumstances, to undertake the duties of trustees, and the present Bill, he was certain, would not only make a great improvement in the existing law, but would supply a want which had for a long time been severely felt.

LORD HERSCHELL said he warmly approved of the provisions of the Bill with reference to the liability of trustees in cases of breach of trust, on whom the law had often pressed very unjustly. Trustees had acted for the most part gratuitously in those matters; still, the law had held them liable, although they might have acted honestly and reasonably, if upon the strict construction of the provisions, they could be said to have committed a breach of trust. We did not so deal with any other class of agents, and we had imposed upon trustees a liability which had undoubtedly been very severely felt, and which in many cases had operated unjustly. He was glad, therefore, that the noble and learned Lord had taken steps to remove what he thought was a serious blot on our law in that respect.

Read $2^a$ (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH (PORTS) BILL.

LORD HARRIS moved the Second Reading of this Bill. He said its object was to facilitate the action that had to be taken when a ship, on coming into port, was reported by the medical officer to be in an insanitary condition. At present it was necessary to move the local authority to send an order, but it had been pointed out to the Local Government Board that the Act of 1890—the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act—provided a far more simple procedure. The Board, therefore, had introduced legislation which would practically put a ship in the same position, as regarded treatment of this kind, as a house. That was the object of the Measure, and the result of it would be that, upon a medical officer presenting a certificate that the ship was in an insanitary condition, it would be sufficient for the clerk to the local sanitary authority to give orders to the captain to have the vessel cleansed at once. There was also a provision in the Bill that, should the captain not be able to do so, the local sanitary authority could undertake to do the work at its own expense.

Read 2ª (according to Order) and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

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PARLIAMENTARY COSTS BILL [H.L.].

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

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CHAIRMAN DISTRICT COUNCILS BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order); an Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

House adjourned at Five o'clock till To-morrow, a Quarter past Ten o'clock.

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# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Monday, 20th July 1896.*

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## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

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LLANELLY HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

Queen's Consent signified.

Read the Third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners. The House went; and, being returned, Mr. Speaker reported the Royal Assent to Bills which had passed both Houses. [For list, see proceedings of House of Lords of this day.]

## *QUESTIONS.*

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GENERAL POST OFFICE, DUBLIN.

MR. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, with regard to the recent promotions in the Sorting Department of the General Post Office, Dublin, when Mr. Sanderson was appointed chief clerk over the heads of five officers who had longer service, Mr. Forrest, who replaced Mr. Sanderson, was promoted over six who were his seniors; Mr. Dagg who replaced Mr. Forrest was promoted over four who were his seniors in the service; Mr. Gilligan over 12 seniors; and Mr. Mansfield over 46 of longer standing in the service, will he explain why Mr. Wagner, who had held the appointment of postmaster in Killarney, was taken into the Sorting Department and placed over many officers of long standing in the service; whether, in these cases, the tabular statement prescribed in the Book of Instructions, giving the names and dates of appointment, and reason for passing over any officer, was duly furnished; and, if he can say whether the reasons set forth in this statement for passing over these officers were ever brought under the notice of the officers themselves?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): It was a matter of regret to the Postmaster General to be obliged to go outside the Dublin Sorting Office in order to fill the vacancy on the First Class of Assistant Superintendents in that office to which Mr. Wagner has been appointed; but after special and exhaustive inquiry had been made, it was found that there was no one in the subordinate classes who was both fit for the appointment and willing to accept it. Amongst those classes there was certainly one, and probably more than one officer, who was in all respects fit, but he was unwilling to accept the appointment because it would necessarily involve his removal from sorting duty on board the Kingstown and Holyhead Mail Packets, a duty which carries considerable emoluments. The usual Tabular Statements with details respecting each of the officers passed over, as well as each of those promoted were furnished in this case. It is not the practice to communicate to officers passed over reasons for their not being promoted; beyond the fact that the officers promoted were considered to be better qualified.

### VOLUNTEER CLASS FIRING (COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES).

MR. G. LAMBERT (Devon, South Molton): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether class firing in a Volunteer Corps would come under the category of military duty, and entitle a Volunteer to a claim of compensation from the War Department for injuries received while in the performance of his duties.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Class firing is a military duty, but the grant of compensation would entirely depend upon the circumstances of a case.

### EXCHEQUER COURT.

MR. R. COX (Edinburgh, S): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate will he explain why the office of Lord Ordinary in Exchequer Causes, which became vacant on or about 12th May last, has not been filled, although a Commission appointing a new Judge was shortly thereafter signed; whether he is aware that in consequence much public and private inconvenience has been caused by the impossibility of transacting the business of the Exchequer Court during the summer session; and, what steps will be taken to remedy this state of matters?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire,): I have to inform my hon. Friend that the delay in completing this appointment was unavoidable, and until he mentioned the subject to me at the end of last week I had no information that any inconvenience had been caused. I am glad to be able to inform him that the difficulty which caused the delay has been got over and that the warrant was sent off last Thursday.

### NONCONFORMIST BURIAL SERVICE (THIRLAND, NEAR ALFRETON.)

*MR. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the Rev. R. B. Stoney, rector of Shirland, near Alfreton, having been served with a notice of a burial with a Nonconformist service of Mr. Robert Tomlinson, at five o'clock in the afternoon of the 9th instant, declined, not in writing but verbally, to receive the same unless the time was altered to three o'clock, no other service having been fixed for the later hour, thereby occasioning the loss to the mourners of half a day's wages; whether the rector's action was in accordance with the provisions of the Burial Act of 1880; whether he is aware that the rector also declines to permit Nonconformist burials on Sunday, while other burials are permitted on that day; And, whether inquiry will be made into the facts, with a view to prevent a recurrence of such an incident, and the continuance of such distinctions?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): I have made inquiry and am informed by the rector and churchwardens that the allegations referred to in the Question are absolutely without foundation.

### ADJUTANTS (VOLUNTEER INFANTRY).

COLONEL DALBIAC (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether in view of the consideration recently given to the case of Adjutants of Artillery Militia and Volunteers, he will consider the case of Adjutants of Volunteer Infantry, who are, through accepting these appointments, in a worse financial position than if they had remained with their regiments, with a view to their receiving some additional pay in consideration of their additional expenses and greatly increased responsibility?

*MR. BRODRICK: The case of Adjutants of Artillery, is not altogether similar to that of Adjutants of Volunteer Infantry; Lord Lansdowne sees no reason, for increasing the attractions of the appointment.

COMPENSATION TO POLICE (IRELAND).

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, (1) whether his attention has been called to the case of Constable John Quinlan, who has just been awarded £800 by the county of Cork Grand Jury, to be levied on the ratepayers of the county of Cork, as compensation for injuries inflicted on him in a public house at Castletownroche, where he had been called in to keep the peace between two men engaged in a drunken quarrel; (2) whether, in addition to this large sum, Quinlan will now obtain a pension from the force in the ordinary way, and whether it is the fact that, in the case of a policeman injured while on duty, power exists to give him the full pay of his rank on retiring; (3) whether he is aware that in the case of a policeman injured while on duty in England, Scotland, and the city of Belfast, no right exists of obtaining compensation to be levied off ratepayers; (4) whether it is the case that under the Irish Grand Jury Acts (outside Belfast) compensation in such cases can be awarded by the Grand Jury without any preliminary application to presentment sessions, and without any preliminary notice to the ratepayers of any kind being served or published; (5) whether he will take steps to have the English and the Irish law on this point assimilated; (6) and, whether meanwhile, in view of the terms as to pay and pension under which Irish policemen serve, the police authorities will make it a condition of admission to the force that claims of this kind shall not be made?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): My attention has been drawn to the award to Constable Quinlan of a sum of £800 as compensation, by the Grand Jury of Cork, for injuries received in the execution of his duty. The constable is still under medical treatment and is at present on sick leave of absence, but he has not yet been pronounced to be incapacitated for further service in the Constabulary, and should he be found to be incapacitated for further service he will become eligible for a pension. Power exists to grant pensions to members of the force incapacited for service through injuries received in the execution of their duty not exceeding full pay; but the amount of such pensions is governed in every case by the length of service, the nature of the injury, and the extent of the constable's incapacity. It is a fact that in Belfast constables injured in similar circumstances cannot be granted compensation. This may also be the case in England and Scotland, but I have no information on that point. I believe the fact to be as stated in the fourth paragraph. As regards the fifth and sixth paragraphs, the questions raised are not such as I can give a reply to off-hand, as the matter is obviously one requiring grave consideration. It would be undesirable to effect what would practically be an alteration in the law by an administrative act.

MR. MAURICE HEALY was understood to ask whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that the hon. Baronet the member for Cambridgeshire and another hon. Member were ratepayers in the County of Cork, and could he suggest any reason why they should pay compensation?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that compensation had to be paid, and by somebody, and the area from which compensation was drawn would of course involve certain anomalies.

COLONEL WARING (Down, N.) was understood to ask whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that the two hon. members referred to expected to pay compensation.

[No answer was given.]

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that in the case in which Constable Quinlan was recently awarded £800 compensation by the County Cork Grand Jury, the Constabulary Authorities declined to state the amount of pension he would receive; and that Constables Leahy and Courtenay, who were each granted £1,000 compensation on previous occasions by County Cork Grand Juries, only obtained a portion of the pension which might have been granted to them; and, whether, in future, full information as to pension will be afforded when the claim for compensation is under consideration?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Inspector General did not decline to state the amount of pension Constable Quinlan would receive, but, on the 11th instant, in reply to a telegram from a solicitor in Cork, the Inspector General wired that he was unable to say what pension the constable would get as the amount would depend on the extent of the injury received, and the degree of the constable's incapacity, and could only be fixed after the constable had been examined and pronounced unfit for further service by the surgeon to the force, or a Medical Board, and this has not yet been done in Constable Quinlan's case. In the case of Constables Leahy and Courtenay no portion of the pensions to which they were entitled was kept back, and the amount of their pensions was fixed entirely irrespective of the compensation granted to them by the Grand Jury.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the claim of Dennis Dooling, of Walshtownbeg, Midleton, county Cork, for compensation for malicious injury to a cow, has now been considered and dismissed by the County Cork Grand Jury, steps will be taken to prosecute this man for perjury?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): This Question appears to be founded on a misconception, Doolan did not prefer any claim at the assizes. I have called for a report of what took place at the Presentment Sessions and the evidence available. When it has been received, I will consider whether it is proper or desirable to institute a prosecution.

## LUNATIC ASYLUMS (IRELAND).

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a resolution from the Grand Jury of the county of Cork, drawing attention to the fact that, while the Government can borrow money at less than 2½ per cent. interest, they are charging the Grand Jury 3½ per cent. interest over and above the instalments of principal for a loan for building an addition to the lunatic asylum; whether he has received similar complaints from other parts of Ireland with reference to this class of loans; and whether he will use his influence with the Treasury to have the rate of interest reduced, as requested by the Grand Jury.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Representations to the effect mentioned have been received, but on the general question I must refer the hon. Member to the statement made on Thursday last by my hon. Friend, the Secretary to the Treasury in reply to the similar inquiries of the hon. Member for North Dublin.

MR. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.) was understood to ask whether there was any objection to the Grand Jury borrowing money in the open market?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: That question ought to be addressed to the Treasury.

MR. CLANCY: Then I will ask the Secretary to the Treasury if that is so.

MR. HANBURY: I am afraid I was not listening.

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a resolution from the Grand Jury of the county of Cork, complaining that Government grants for lunatic asylum buildings and maintenance in Ireland are made only once a year, instead of being made half-yearly, and submitting that it would be a great relief to the cesspayers if the payments could be made half-yearly, as all payments for county purposes have to be made; and whether he will accede to the suggestion thus made.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I presume that the Question refers to the Parliamentary Grant in Aid of Pauper Lunatics. There are no Government Grants in Aid of Asylum Buildings. Under Section 6, of 31 & 32 Vict. cap. 97, the accounts of each Asylum shall be audited and examined once a year as soon as can be after the 25th March, by the Local Government Board Auditors. The Government instructions to the Local Government Board are to have its accounts audited as early in the year as possible; and as a matter of fact it rarely happens that its entire Parliamentary Grant is not paid out to the Asylums in the first six months of the financial year.

Last year for example, the entire Grant was paid out on or before the 7th September. It appears to me that a compliance with the hon. Member's suggestion would mean this, that whereas under the existing system, the Asylums receive the Government Grant within the first six months of each financial year, under the proposal made in this Question, they would receive one-half only in the first six months, and the other half in the next six months.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY pointed out that the suggestion was not his, but that of the Grand Jury of the County of Cork, and in one portion of his Question, he had asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he had read a Resolution from the Grand Jury pressing this reform on him.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, I beg pardon, I have received that Resolution.

Mr. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, at what date were the additions and alterations commenced at the Carlow District Lunatic Asylum, and when it is expected they will be completed; whether these extensive additions and alterations are carried out by a contractor, or, if not, under whose supervision and direction; and, whether the materials necessary for carrying out these additions or alterations are procured at contract prices; and, if not, in whose hands does the selection of the firm or firms for which the necessary articles are to be procured and their cost rest?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The works were commenced in December 1893, and, it is expected, will be completed in December 1897. The major part of the works are being carried out by contract; some minor works did not admit of being executed in a satisfactory manner by contract and are being otherwise carried out under the supervision of a clerk of works and of an architect, who is the County Surveyor. The articles required in connection with these minor works have been procured from Irish firms, selected by the architect and subject to the approval of the Board of Control, by whom all the accounts are audited before payment.

## CHARGE OF PERJURY (COUNTY KERRY).

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether his attention has been called to the case tried by Mr. Justice Murphy, at the Kerry Assizes just concluded, in which a man named David Leahy was convicted and sentenced on a charge of perjury under aggravated circumstances; (2) whether he is aware that this man Leahy was the prosecutor against a man named David Keane, on a charge of firing into a dwelling house, tried at the Cork Winter Assizes of 1893, when Keane was convicted and sentenced to five years' penal servitude; that Leahy was the sole witness as to identification of the accused on that occasion; that, prior to the latter conviction, Leahy had been in litigation with Keane's family for years about a dwelling-house from which he was seeking to evict them; and that Leahy afterwards brought a similar charge against Keane's father and brother, but was disbelieved and the accused acquitted with the approval of the Judge; and, (3) whether, seeing that an influential memorial for Keane's release has lately been presented to the Lord Lieutenant, and in view of what has now transpired as to Leahy's character, it is intended to further detain Keane in prison?

Mr. JAMES ROCHE (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether he is aware that a man named David Leahy, who was tried before Mr. Justice Murphy at the recent Kerry Assizes and sentenced on a charge of flagrant perjury, was granted a large sum of money by the Grand Jury of the county of Kerry as compensation on a presentment for the malicious burning of his own dwelling-house, although the police gave the strongest evidence against application damages being granted; (2) whether he will state what amount was awarded to him, if he has been paid it, and what independent witnesses gave evidence in support of the application; (3) whether he is aware that at the Cork Winter Assizes of 1893 a man named David Keane, whose identity was proved by the unsupported evidence of the aforesaid Leahy, was convicted and sentenced to five years' penal servitude; and that, in similar charges brought by Leahy against members of Keane's family, the jury disbelieved him and acquitted the Keanes; (4) whether, under the circumstances, and considering the general belief in the innocence of David Keane, who is still in prison, he will make inquiry into the matter with a view to the release of Keane?

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR**: The facts are substantially as stated in the first and second paragraphs of the Question of the hon. and learned Member for North Louth. It is to be observed, however, that although Leahy was the sole witness as to the identification of Keane in 1893, his evidence was largely corroborated by the independent testimony of the police. The case of Keane's conviction was carefully inquired into in July of last year, in connection with the memorial presented to the late Lord Lieutenant, and the conclusion arrived at upon the Report of Mr. Justice O'Brien, who tried the case, was that the law should take its course. The learned Judge considered the case an audacious conspiracy to murder and certainly proved. Leahy was awarded £50 compensation for malicious burning at the last March Assizes. A policeman who was examined before the Grand Jury stated that he believed the burning was not malicious. No independent witness gave evidence in support of the application, though a sergeant of police testified to previous bad feeling towards Leahy and the annoyance to which he had been subjected. On the 18th instant, the Secretary to the Grand Jury forwarded to Leahy a cheque for the amount of compensation awarded. As regards the last paragraph of the Question of the hon. Member for East Kerry, I have already stated the conclusion arrived at both by the Judge who convicted Keane and by the Executive Government on the memorial submitted on his behalf. Any further memorial on behalf of the prisoner which may be forwarded to the Lord Lieutenant will be duly considered.

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** was understood to ask whether it would not be a graceful act to allow this man to be released.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR**: The Chief Secretary has nothing whatever to do with the exercise of the prerogative of mercy, but if representation is made it will, I have no doubt, be duly considered.

**Mr. T. M. HEALY**: I will raise that matter to-night on the Report of the right hon. Gentleman's Vote.

## CONVICT PRISON WARDERS.

**Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN** (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will state the maximum number of hours convict warders are kept on duty per day and per week; and, whether he will endeavour to arrange the duties of prison officers as to reduce the average number of hours for duty to eight, same as in all other Government Departments?

**Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY**: The maximum is for a day, 10 hours 35 minutes; for a week, 65 hours and 40 minutes. I have already informed the hon. Member that the Committee who inquired into this matter came to the conclusion that none of the schemes for arranging the duty of prison officers so as to give an eight hours' day were practicable. I am not aware that an eight hours' day is the rule in all other Government Departments.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, DUBLIN.

**Mr. T. M. HEALY**: I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether advertisements or other notifications of vacancies in the staff of the Royal College of Science, Dublin, are made so as to afford Irish candidates an opportunity of making application; is he aware that one of his predecessors admitted, in answer to a question by Mr. Sexton, in July 1890, that out of nine appointments to professorships in this institution made during the preceding 18 years one only had been given to an Irishman, and if since that date (July, 1890), two professorships then held by Irishmen became vacant and have been filled by Englishmen; is he also aware that some of the Englishmen appointed professors have subsequently obtained additional appointments in public service and elsewhere; and, will he take steps to prevent any more of those dual appointments being made or new offices created in his Department?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): Notices of vacancies in the staff of the College are generally given in *Nature*, which is the leading scientific journal, but it is not found necessary to issue advertisements. I am not aware that any such statement as that during 18 years only one appointment was given to an Irishman was made. I am informed that one of the two professors appointed since 1890 happens to be an Irishman, but nationality is never taken into account by the Committee of Council—[*Nationalist cheers*]—in making scientific appointments. The time during which professors are not engaged at the college is at their own disposal. I have heard of two who have undertaken to assist the staff of the Dublin Museum in arranging scientific collections. Otherwise I do nor know how their leisure is employed. No appointments or officers are created by the Committee of Council for the benefit of particular persons.

MR. T. M. HEALY: We never receive this paper called *Nature*. Will the right hon. Gentleman be good enough to arrange that some advertisements on the subject shall be put in some Irish paper, say a Tory paper?

[No answer was given.]

## PRISONERS' AID SOCIETIES.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any inquiry, departmental or otherwise, has been held into the working of Prisoners' Aid Societies; and, whether such inquiry extends to the operation of such societies in Ireland, if so, what evidence has been called from that country?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Yes, Sir, such an inquiry has been made by Mr. Merrick, the Chaplain of Holloway Prison, whose report is expected shortly. The inquiry was undertaken in consequence of the recommendation of the Committee appointed by my predecessor to report on the English prison system, and did not extend to Ireland.

*Mr. T. M. Healy.*

## DUNRAYMOND POSTMASTER (COUNTY NONAGHAN).

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, is he aware that William Elliott, recently appointed postmaster of Dunraymond, county Monaghan, and letter carrier, attended an Orange procession at Newbliss on the 13th July instant, wearing Orange regalia, and taking part in the performance of party music by an Orange band; and, whether it is in accordance with the regulations of the Department for postmasters and letter carriers to take part in such processions; and, if not, does he propose to take any steps to maintain discipline in the postal service in this regard?

MR. HANBURY: On inquiry the Postmaster General learns that it is the fact that the sub-postmaster of Dunraymond and his son, an auxiliary postman, joined the procession and that the postman played in the band. Neither father nor son wore any regalia. At present there is no regulation prohibiting specifically Post Office servants from taking part in such processions; but the Postmaster General will consider whether one should not be laid down.

## COUNTY CARLOW INFIRMARY.

MR. C. J. ENGLEDOW (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what legal authority the governors of the County Carlow Infirmary have for admitting into that institution for medical care and treatment inhabitants of the neighbouring counties, and thus impose a largely increased expenditure on the ratepayers of county Carlow?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The governors of the Infirmary are aware of no legal authority for or against the admission to the Infirmary of patients from adjoining counties. As the hon. Member is aware, the Infirmary is situated on the borders of three counties, and I do not know whether he wishes to suggest that the responsible authorities in charge of the institution would be justified, legally or morally, in refusing to admit a dying patient, simply because he resided outside the county Carlow though within half a mile of the Infirmary. As a matter of fact very few cases from neighbouring counties have been admitted, and all those who have been admitted were either patients who paid for their maintenance and thus cost the Carlow ratepayers nothing, or cases of urgency where danger to life would be incurred by refusing admission.

MR. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he is aware that the main portion of the supplies required for the County Carlow Infirmary were not procured by public tender at contract prices; that the matron procured what she thought necessary where and at what price she thought proper; that these goods were received into the institution by her; that she certified the account as correct; and that such accounts have been regularly paid by the governors out of the public funds without being checked or examined by any other person; and (2) whether, under these circumstances, he will cause inquiry to be made into the administration of this institution?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am informed that the facts are not generally as stated in the Question. Tenders are invited for the main portion of the supplies, but in the case of minor supplies, which are not contracted for, the matron procures such as she considers necessary and certifies for the small expenditure, which is submitted to the Board of Governors. As to the second paragraph, I have nothing to add to my reply to the hon. Member's previous Question of the 21st May on the same subject.

## POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS (COUNTY CARLOW).

MR. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will consider the necessity of establishing a district post office at Kellerig, County Carlow, as much risk and inconvenience is now experienced by a large number of people owing to the present unsatisfactory postal arrangements for that district.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General will consider the necessity of establishing a post office at Kellerig (County Carlow), and will inform the hon. Member of the result.

## EAST PRESTON GUARDIANS, SUSSEX (VOLUNTARY CHURCH RATE).

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether the East Preston (Sussex) Guardians have inquired of the Board whether they can legally vote money out of the rates as a contribution to a voluntary church rate; and, if so, what reply has been given to the inquiry.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): The Guardians of the East Preston Union informed the Board of their proposal to make an annual contribution to the voluntary church rate fund in the parish where the inmates of the workhouse attend divine service. The Board informed the Guardians that, if in a voluntary church rate a sum was assessed on them in respect of property in their occupation, they were empowered to pay the amount by Section 7 of the 31 & 32 Vict. cap. 109. The Board added that if the sum proposed to be paid was not really a church rate, but a reasonable payment to enable the Guardians to secure accommodation in the church for the inmates of the workhouse, the Board consider that the payment might be made without any sanction on their part.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS asked if the President of the Local Government Board would allow him to have a copy of the communication sent to the Board?

MR. CHAPLIN: Yes, Sir.

## HERRINGS AT ST. PETERSBURG.

MR. J. W. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether representations have been made to him by the Scottish fish curers as to the inadequacy of accommodation for landing herrings at St. Petersburg, and the consequent losses which are sustained by the delay; and whether Her Majesty's Government will take steps to submit the matter to the Russian Government with a view of securing further landing accommodation?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. GEORGE CURZON, Southport): Representations were received from Mr. Anderson of Stornoway, and Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg was instructed by telegraph on the 7th instant to take any steps he properly could to expedite the discharge and bracking of Scotch herrings. Since then I have received renewed representations from Mr. Anderson and also from the hon. Member for Elgin and Nairn on the same subject; aud a further telegram has now been sent to Sir N. O'Conor drawing his attention to the continuance of the complaint and instructing him to render what assistance he can.

## TORPEDO-BOATS (VOLUNTEER CREWS).

MR. H. O. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he will make the experiment of placing a first-class torpedo-boat in the Ports of London, Liverpool, Bristol, or other suitable place, provided that properly-instructed volunteer crews be found for such boats, and provided that a suitable organisation responsible for the housing, maintenance, etc., of the boat be formed in the port selected?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. G. J. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): I am aware of the great attention given by my hon. Friend to the question of combining a Volunteer system with the manning of torpedo-boats, but the difficulties which have been placed before me in respect of the execution of such a plan as my hon. Friend has devised are very great, and, as at present advised, I do not see my way to the experiment. It is extremely difficult to meet all the objections which caused the dissolution of the late Naval Artillery Volunteers, and which would not be removed by the substitution of torpedo-boats for gun vessels in their training. In some respects, indeed, the difficulties would be aggravated.

*Mr. J. W. Crombie.*

## CRETE.

MR. C. J. MONK (Gloucester): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government is prepared, in concert with the other Great Powers, to enforce the observance of the engagements unreservedly entered into by the Porte in respect to a general amnesty in Crete by more efficient means than by collective remonstrances, which proved wholly ineffectual to prevent the murder of so many thousands of the Sultan's Armenian subjects?

MR. CURZON: Her Majesty's Government cannot make any announcement as to what course the Great Powers, with whom they are acting in concert, will pursue.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether, in view of the objection taken by the Powers of Europe to carrying out the instructions given by Her Majesty's Government to Her Majesty's Consul in Crete relative to distributing relief, and of the consequent postponement of the Consul's action, Her Majesty's Government will, in future, consult and concert and come to an agreement with the Powers before giving similar instructions to British Consuls under similar circumstances?

MR. CURZON: The hon. Member is mistaken in assuming that definite instructions had been sent to Her Majesty's Consul in Crete to distribute relief. The matter was in course of arrangement when the journey was suspended in consequence of objections raised by representatives of the Powers at Constantinople. Her Majesty's Government do not need to be reminded of the expediency of acting in concert with the other Powers in regard to Cretan affairs—since they have hitherto done, and are still doing so—but they must exercise their own discretion as to the method of procedure best adopted to secure that object.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Ambassadors of the Powers have made a representation to the Porte pointing out the present impossible situation at Crete, the difficulty of the presence of a Military Governor holding superior rank to the

Vali, and recommending this difficulty should be remedied; is the Military Commander therein referred to Abdulla Pasha; and is the Foreign Office aware that Abdulla Pasha has repeatedly repudiated the authority of the Governor General?

MR. CURZON: The Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople have informed the Porte that in their opinion the command of the troops in Crete should be given to an officer of lower rank than Abdulla Pasha, and that the officer selected should receive strict orders to remain entirely on the defensive in accordance with the engagements which the Porte has undertaken. Her Majesty's Government have no information that the authority of the Governor General has been repeatedly repudiated by Abdulla Pasha, though there seems reason to believe that the Governor General has not been consulted with regard to the naval and military operations recently undertaken against the inhabitants.

MR. FLYNN: Have the Foreign Office any information that Abdulla Pasha has been replaced in his military command on the island?

MR. CURZON: I saw a statement to that effect in a newspaper this morning, but we have not any confirmation of it at present.

## FIRE AT NATIONAL FEDERATION HALL, SHEEPBRIDGE.

MR. M. McCARTAN (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the night of the 13th or early on the morning of the 14th instant the National Federation Hall at Sheepbridge, near Newry, county Down, was set fire to; whether he can give any particulars of the outrage; and, whether the police have made any arrests in connection with it?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: On Friday last I replied to a similar question, addressed to me by the hon. and learned Member for North Louth. At present I can only add that no evidence is forthcoming that the thatch of the cabin, known as the Federation Hall, was set on fire, as alleged, by Orangemen, or that the burning was malicious. No arrests have been made, and the police are endeavouring to ascertain the origin of the occurrence.

## ROYAL CANAL COMPANY (IRELAND).

MR. JAMES TUITE (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury is he aware that, under sections 33 to 35 of 58 Geo. 3, c. 35, a sum of £15,000 was deposited with the Irish Government by the old Royal Canal Company for the purposes of the obligations of the Company; can he state whether that fund is still available; and, if so, will the Irish Board of Works, to whom the powers of the Directors of Inland Navigation in Ireland were transferred by 1 and 2 Will. 4, c. 33, now apply that sum, as authorised by Section 38 of the said Act of Geo. 3, to the carrying out of whatever works may be necessary to put the canal in a proper navigable condition, the present owners, the Midland Great Western Railway Company of Ireland, as successors of the Royal Canal Company, having failed to do so, as proved by the reports of the inspectors of the Board of Trade; can he state the purport of the quarterly reports of the Midland Railway Company to the Lord Lieutenant as to the condition of the canal immediately before the inspections by Major General Hutchinson and Major Marindin; and, whether the representations of the company were found to agree with the reports of the inspectors?

MR. HANBURY: I have not yet received a report from the Board of Works on this subject, so perhaps the hon. Member will kindly defer his Question for a few days.

## EX-OFFICIO GUARDIANS (IRELAND).

MR. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the desirability of enforcing a qualifying attendance of a certain number of times in each half-year on ex-officio members of boards of guardians in order to qualify them to vote on any question coming before the board for its decision?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The carrying out of the suggestion in this

Question could only be effected by Act of Parliament, and, if legislation were considered desirable in reference to this matter, its scope could hardly be confined to the ex-officio guardians. Many of the elected guardians attend as seldom as some of the ex-officio guardians.

## BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in accordance with the expectation he expressed on the 7th of this month, he has yet heard from the Directors of the British South Africa Company as to the withdrawal of the power of attorney given to Mr. Cecil Rhodes by the Company to manage its affairs in South Africa, and for that purpose to do all such acts as he might in his absolute discretion deem expedient?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The directors of the British South Africa Company informed me on the 9th inst. that they had revoked the power of attorney given by them to Mr. Rhodes.

## RAILWAY CATTLE TRUCKS.

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): On behalf of the hon. Member for Liverpool, Scotland (Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR), I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, having regard to the proceedings in the case of cruelty to cattle heard before the Colchester Magistrates on the 7th instant, the Board of Trade will call the attention of all Railway Companies to the cruelties inflicted on cattle under the present system, and will endeavour to induce the railway managers to alter the cattle trucks and to fit them with moveable compartments, so that each animal may have the equivalent of a separate stall.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): Perhaps the hon. Member will refer to a reply which I gave to a question put upon this subject by my hon. and gallant Friend the Member for south-east Essex on the 13th inst. I hope the railway companies will deal with this subject themselves as far as they are able, but I fear, putting mechanical difficulties aside, that such an alteration in the trucks as that suggested would involve a great increase in the cost of carriage.

MR. W. FIELD: Is it to be understood that the Directors of this great company do not know about this lamentable occurrence on their line?

MR. RITCHIE: All I can say is that they perfectly naturally think they should have some time to make inquiries.

## GIANT'S CAUSEWAY.

MR. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the public meeting recently held in Belfast, under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor, to take steps to prevent by force if necessary the threatened attempt to invade the rights of the public to free access to the Giant's Causeway; and, whether he will refuse to give the assistance of the constabulary to the syndicate in their efforts to convert into private property the rights of way so long used by the public?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have seen a report of the proceedings at the meeting referred to. The syndicate would not be entitled to demand, or to receive, the assistance of the constabulary in any steps which they may take in order to assert rights which that body may consider it possesses.

## POST OFFICE EMPLOYES.

MR. CHARLES SHAW (Stafford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether post office employés are permitted to stand for, and, if elected to serve on town councils; and, whether post office employés are debarred by any existing rule of the service from criticising municipal action through the medium of the public Press?

MR. HANBURY: Post Office servants are at liberty to become members of town councils provided their official duties are not interfered with thereby. There is no rule debarring post office servants from criticising municipal action in the Press. But, having regard to their relations with the public, it is of course desirable that they should abstain from taking a controversial part in local politics.

### NAVAL MANŒUVRES.

MR. JOHN AIRD (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, whether it is contemplated making such arrangements in connection with the forthcoming naval manœuvres as will afford the representatives of the people an opportunity of forming a judgment on the efficiency of the Navy?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: I do not know whether my hon. Friend has more in his mind than a sight of the ships at anchor. If so, I may say that it is not contemplated to have a pageant or review, but the ships under Lord Walter Kerr, numbering nearly 50, including torpedo-boat destroyers, will, on the completion of the manœuvres, be at Spithead for a few days, about the 4th, 5th, and 6th of August, previous to their dispersion, and facilities could be given to hon. Members to see them there if they wished it, but without a ceremonial.

### COURT-MARTIAL (2ND ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT).

MR. EDWARD MORTON (Devonport): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether he is aware that Mr. Sayers, until lately a sergeant in the 2nd Royal Berkshire Regiment, now stationed at Devonport, was recently tried by Court Martial for changing with a corporal his hours of duty in charge of the guard, was found guilty, and reduced to the ranks; whether he is aware that Sayers was a non-commissioned officer for 10 years, that during a large portion of that time he was an instructor of recruits, and that since his degradation he has been compelled to drill with the recruits on the barrack ground for four hours a day; whether he is aware that at his trial by Court Martial the Court refused to allow Sayers to cross-examine witnesses as to credit; that, in contravention of Rule 82 of the "Rules of Procedure," the Court required questions put by him in cross-examination to be put in writing before they were answered by the witness; and that the prosecutor was privately closeted in conference with the members of the Court whilst the prisoner was kept outside the door; and, whether he will direct inquiry to be made into these irregularities, and as far as possible remedy their effects?

*MR. BRODRICK: Private Sayers was reduced to the ranks by sentence of a Court Martial for the offence of leaving his post when sergeant on gate duty. Sayers total service is less than nine and a half years, and he was two and a half years a sergeant. There is no information as to his drilling with recruits since his degradation. The Judge Advocate General is of opinion that the proceedings of the Court Martial were regular, and no inquiry appears under the circumstances to be necessary.

### MOBILISATION SCHEME (THAMES AND MEDWAY GUNS).

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, will he explain why, as under the new mobilisation scheme the City of London Artillery and the two regiments of Middlesex Artillery are detailed for the defence of the Thames and the Medway, they are only armed with 9-inch to 12·5-inch guns; whether it is within his knowledge that they are required to drill with guns which have been obsolete for 20 years; and, if it would be possible to furnish 9-inch guns and fittings to be furnished by the Admiralty stores, the Admiralty being now engaged in replacing guns of the type in the forts with breechloaders and quick firers?

*MR. BRODRICK: The guns with which these corps practice are those of the defences to which they would be allotted in case of mobilisation. As garrison artillery they have no guns of their own. Although not of the newest type, the guns are far from obsolete; they will probably be replaced by breechloaders as funds become available.

### AFFAIRS AT EGIN AND AINTAB.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the Government have any official confirmation of the alleged pillage of the town of Egin, in the Diarbekir district, and the massacre of 400 Armenians; whether he can give the House any information as to the position of affairs at Aintab, where another massacre is reported to be imminent; and whether, in view of the fact of the perpetration of further massacres and the continuance of disorder in the Armenian province subsequent to the period dealt with in the last Blue-book on the subject, he can give the House an assurance that another Blue-book, dealing with the Armenian Question from January last up to the present date, will be issued before the end of the Session?

MR. CURZON: Her Majesty's Government have no official confirmation of the alleged pillage and massacre of the Armenians at Egin. A Report has just been issued with regard to the position of affairs at Aintab; from which I gather that, owing to the attitude of the Turkish authorities, a feeling of insecurity and apprehension has revived. Correspondence relative to any special event of importance could be laid before the House, as in the case of Mr. Fitzmaurice's last Reports; but it is doubtful whether any general collection of Papers would add materially to the information already in the possession of the House.

## PARCEL POST (RE-DIRECTION).

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain why it is that a parcel on which 10½d. has been paid is redirected from the House of Commons to Eaton Square free of charge, but when redirected from the House of Commons to the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, an additional charge of 10½d. is levied; and whether he will take steps to place parcels on the same footing as other postal packets with respect to free redirection, seeing that before the existing regulations were made, on the 31st of May 1892, a parcel and, in fact, all postal packets might be redirected from one point to another within the metropolis free of charge?

*MR. HANBURY: Under the present regulations, parcels are redirected free of charge only when the original and the new address are in the delivery of the same post-office; and, consequently, a parcel redirected from the House of Commons to Charing Cross, which are in different districts, would be liable to fresh postage; while a parcel redirected from the House of Commons to Eaton Square, which are in the same district, would be sent on free of charge. The Postmaster General cannot see his way clear to extend the privilege of free redirection to parcels or to modify the present regulations so as to admit of parcels being redirected without charge from one part of London to another.

## LAND TAX.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will be good enough to explain how it has been ascertained that the remission of the Land Tax provided for by the Finance Bill cannot possibly apply to cases in which the tax has been redeemed without the land being exonerated?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The lands on which the tax has been redeemed, but not exonerated, will continue subject to assessment at the same rate as other unexonerated lands in the same parish, and may or may not be affected by the provisions referred to. The rights of the person who is entitled to receive the purchased Land Tax are secured by Sections 82 and 85 of the Act 38 George III., cap. 60, and cannot be effected by a diminution of the tax on the particular property.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the attention of the Scotch Office has been called to Section 31 of the Finance Bill, whereby the quota of the Land Tax payable to the Imperial Treasury by England will be reduced by an estimated amount of between £90,000 and £100,000 per annum, whilst the amount of the quota payable by Scotland will, by the operation of the same clause, be reduced, if to any, only to an infinitesimal extent; and whether the Scotch Office has made or intends making on the Treasury any demand for an equivalent grant similar to that allowed in the case of grants out of the Imperial purse for agricultural rates in England?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: I must refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Question put to him by the hon. Member on the 17th instant. Any possible bearing the concession may have in the direction indicated under the second paragraph of the question will no doubt be considered when the Finance Bill has become law and the amount of the sum in question is definitely ascertained.

### DISTURBANCES IN DIARBEKIR.

MR. FRANCIS STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is able to give any information with regard to the serious disturbances, accompanied by loss of life, which have occurred in the province of Diarbekir?

MR. CURZON: Her Majesty's Government have received no confirmation of the reported disturbances and loss of life in the vilayet of Diarbekir.

MR. FRANCIS STEVENSON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Great Britain and France have succeeded in securing the recall of the Governor of Diarbekir, whose continued presence was stated by their representatives at Constantinople to be likely to conduce to a fresh massacre?

MR. CURZON: The Turkish Government, in reply to the repeated representations made by the French Ambassador and Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, have stated that the charges made against the Vali of Diarbekir are unfounded. The Vali has not so far been recalled; but the warnings given have been sufficient to call the serious attention of the Porte to the state of affairs existing in the vilayet.

### RHODESIA.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, in view of the rebellion of the native population in the territories of the Chartered Company, and of the serious condition of affairs existing there, Her Majesty's Government will, at an early date, place Rhodesia under direct Imperial rule, a *régime* which has proved so beneficial in Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and the Lakes Protectorate?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have already stated the reasons which make me think it would be undesirable to take the course suggested, and I can only add that I do not consider the crisis of the rebellion a favourable moment for considering the question of altering the administrative machinery of the Chartered Company's territories. The circumstances of the latter are wholly different from those of the other territories referred to in the hon. Member's Question.

SIR ELLIS ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he has any fresh information from the authorities in Rhodesia as to the sufficiency of the military forces there, and as to the food supplies in the country?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information which would lead me to suppose that Sir F. Carrington has altered his opinion as to the sufficiency of the forces at his command. The primary responsibility for the arrangement of the general food supply of the country rests with the British South Africa Company, and I have no reason to think that they fail to realise the importance of the matter. As I have previously had occasion to remind the House, the difficulties of transport are immense. I have no information with regard to the alleged resignation of Colonel Napier and other officers.

### EXTENSION OF RAILWAYS (INDIA).

MR. R. ASCROFT (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, if he is in a position to state what effect has been given to the promise made by him, that early attention should be given to the development of India by an extension of the railways.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): Since the date of the speech referred to by my hon. Friend considerable progress has been made in extending and accelerating schemes of railway construction in India, and, among other measures, provision has been made for an expenditure during the three years ending March 1899, of 27 crores of rupees on railway extension—a sum much in excess of the expenditure of the last three years. In addition to this, favourable terms have been offered to the public for the further extension of Indian railways, by private agency, by the construction of branch lines forming feeders to the existing main systems. Any capital expenditure in connection with such branch lines will be outside the limit of 27 crores before-mentioned. Under both these combined heads of expenditure works of construction are in progress, and a sum of about 12½ crores of rupees will have been expended on the extension of the existing Indian railway system during the present financial year.

## CAVAN AND LEITRIM LIGHT RAILWAY.

MR. JASPER TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, whether he is aware that the Treasury advanced £65,000 to the Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway Company on the security of their shares, and, in consequence of the Tramways Amendment (Ireland) Act passed last Session, the shares increased very considerably in value; whether the Treasury have since sold out their shares in the company at a large profit, and applied the surplus so as to reduce the light railway tax in the South Leitrim portion of the guaranteeing area one penny farthing in the pound during the present half year; and, whether he is prepared to state in detail the sums at which the Treasury bought and sold out these shares?

*MR. HANBURY: The Board of Works lent £65,000 on the security of 13,000 £5 Baronial Guaranteed shares taken at par. Before the passing of the Tramways Amendment Act 1895, some of the shares had been sold at a premium. Since the Act became law, the shares have realised a higher premium, but in the opinion of the Board of Works this rise in price was not solely, if at all, due to the Act. Of the 13,000 shares 10,262 have been sold. The value of the shares sold would at par be £51,310, but owing to the above-mentioned rise in price, they have fetched £64,425, the sum required to wipe out the outstanding balance of the loan as reduced by the annual sinking fund. This leaves 2,738 shares still outstanding, of which 650 are guaranteed by part of Cavan and 2,088 by part of Leitrim. The par value of the two sets is £3,250 and £10,440 respectively. These shares have been surrendered to the company for cancellation. The consequent saving to the guaranteeing area in the County of Leitrim will be approximately 1¼d. in the pound yearly on the valuation of that area. The prices fetched by the £5 shares sold have been as follows:—1,269 shares have sold at 5⅝, 283 shares have sold at 5¾, 6,100 shares have sold at $5\frac{13}{16}$, 32 shares have sold at 7, 2,578 shares have sold at 7¾. The hon. Member is incorrect in speaking of any of the shares as having been bought by the Treasury.

## TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

SIR HENRY HAVELOCK-ALLAN (Durham, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in consideration of the unsettled state of affairs in Mashonaland and Matabeleland, and reports that are being daily received of the alleged unreliability of some of our native allies, whether he has considered the advisability of reinforcing the troops engaged in suppressing the Matabele rising by a considerable number of trained mounted infantry from the Imperial regiments now serving at home and in South Africa; whether arrangements can be made for supplying any number that may be sent with the necessary horses and equipment on the spot; and, whether his latest communications with the Military authorities at the Cape, lead him to believe that there is not likely to be any necessity for such reinforcements?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: As regards the question of reinforcements generally, I have to refer the hon. and gallant Member to the answer which I have given on three or four previous occasions on the subject. As regards the use of mounted infantry (in addition to the Hussars), I believe that 500 at least have already been sent to the front with the necessary horses and equipment; that there are more mounted infantry available in South Africa if required, and that, as at present advised, Sir F. Carrington does not wish any more sent from this country.

## IRISH MAILS (NEW CONTRACT).

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can state if any and, if so, how much time it is proposed to save by Irish mail trains between Euston and Holyhead, and *vice versâ*, under the new contract with the London and North Western Railway Company, as compared with the existing contract; and, whether it will be arranged that an equally good service will be provided on the Irish mails as on the Scotch mail and express trains as regards speed, accommodation, and third class and dining carriages?

*MR. HANBURY: It is proposed to save half-an-hour in the running of the night mail trains between Euston and Holyhead in both directions. It is not proposed to alter the speed of the day mail trains. The Postmaster General is aware of the time taken by the London and North Western Railway Company on the Scotch mail and express trains. The rate of speed of the Scotch night mail between London and Carlisle, as recently accelerated is 47 or 48 miles an hour, of the Irish night mail between Euston and Holyhead the speed at the present time is 43·12 miles an hour, but it will be 46·95 under the acceleration in April next. The rate of speed of the Scotch day mail is 38·18 miles an hour; and of the Irish day mail 43·35 miles an hour. On the whole the comparison as to speed is not unfavourable to the Irish service. As regards passenger accommodation, some communication has passed between the company and the Post Office, but the company cannot see their way to provide for third class passengers. Whether dining carriages can be run is also a question which must be left to the railway company.

## NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS' PENSION (COUNTY CORK).

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that the family of a National School teacher named Burke, in County Cork, who died in the early part of this year, did not receive the retiring gratuity to which he was entitled as sanctioned by the Treasury; and, whether, seeing that under precisely similar circumstances the retiring gratuity was paid in the case of the family of a teacher named M'Carthy who died at Belfast in April last, he will reconsider his decision in this case?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: In the case of M'Carthy it happened that the condition of execution by the Lord Lieutenant of the warrant for gratuity was fulfilled prior to the death of the applicant, whereas in the case of Burke this condition was not fulfilled prior to Burke's death, so that the two cases were not precisely similar. The decision in these cases is governed by statutory requirement and in no sense can be regarded as my decision.

## INCAUTIOUS USE OF FIREARMS (IRELAND).

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if the police of Castleshane have made any report to the effect that a man named Francis M'Adam, on Thursday the 9th of the present month, while engaged in driving his cattle along the road to a portion of his farm, received several pellets of shot in his head and face, in consequence of a gamekeeper firing at a dog within a few yards of the road, and that the gamekeeper threatened to shoot the caretaker of the dog; and, will he issue any instructions for the exercise of greater caution in discharge of firearms?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The facts appear to be substantially as stated. It appears that at the time of the occurrence the gamekeeper and M'Adam were on different sides of a thick hedge, and that the gamekeeper in firing at the dog, which was in pursuit of a rabbit, did not see M'Adam. The injuries to the latter were very slight and both he and the gamekeeper admit that they were accidentally inflicted.

## CURRAGH CAMP.

MR. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, will he explain for what purpose and under what terms does a man called Hanley hold possession of the house and premises erected on the land enclosed at the Curragh Camp some years ago for the purposes of a sewage farm; and, whether it is in accordance with the provisions of the Curragh Act that portions of the commonage are enclosed and allowed to be occupied by private persons?

Mr. BRODRICK: Mr. Hanley holds the house and land under a lease, at a rental of £27 a year, for the purpose of working it as a sewage farm for the disposal of the sewage from the Camp at the Curragh. With such an object it is clear that the land must be enclosed, and as it is used for military purposes it does not appear that the provisions of the Curragh Act are contravened.

## SCHOOL HOUSES (IRELAND).

Mr. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether, in view of the fact that loans are granted in Ireland for building national school teachers' dwellings repayable in 35 years, and that this charge is as a rule paid by the teacher and presses heavily on his slender income, he will see the necessity of extending the period for repayment to the same time as that allowed for the repayment of loans granted for the building of school houses and under the same terms and conditions?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The Question is based on a misapprehension of facts. The terms of repayment of loans for teachers' residences and for building school houses are the same in each case. The annuity of five per cent. payable on loans for residences is not paid by teachers. A moiety of this annual rent charge is in every case paid by the Commissioners, and managers are prohibited from charging, by way of rent on the residences, a sum in excess of the remaining moiety of 2½ per cent.

## NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS (IRELAND).

Mr. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he will consider the desirability of recommending to the consideration of the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland, the justice of placing all national school teachers on the same footing with regard to the number of years' service and the amount allowed for each year's service when calculating an officer's pension as all civil servants in Ireland, and also of making some allowance to each teacher, on his retiring, for his services before he had reached the age of 21 years?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: This Question involves further extension of the benefits that were provided under the rules issued pursuant to the Teachers' Pension Act of 1879. These rules were revised in December 1885, and the benefits to the teachers materially increased. The action then taken has been regarded by the Treasury as in excess of the capacity of the pension fund and a main cause of its since become insolvent. Under present circumstances there seems to be no warranty for recommending that the rate of pension to teachers should be determined on the same principles as those of civil servants, or that service rendered under the minimum age prescribed by the pension rules of 1885 should be counted.

## AGRICULTURAL RATING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Mr. CROMBIE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he will refer the Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill to a Standing Committee, including all the Scottish Members of Parliament?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): As the hon. Member is aware, the practice of the House has always been that, though there may be a Grand Committee on which Scottish opinion is very fully represented, the constitution of that Committee as regards the distribution of the parties ought to be a reflection of the constitution of the House. As regards the particular Bill which the hon. Member desires to refer to a Grand Committee, I will point out that it has been stated by Gentlemen on the Front Bench opposite, for reasons I do not fully comprehend, to be a Measure of a highly controversial character, and in these circumstances, I think, it would be improper to send it to a Grand Committee?

### TWELVE O'CLOCK RULE.

MR. H. H. BEMROSE (Derby): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, in the event of the suspension of the Twelve O'clock Rule for the remainder of the Session, he will give an assurance that the Benefices Bill shall not be taken after midnight?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Yes, Sir; I shall refer to the Bill later on.

### FINANCIAL RELATIONS INQUIRY.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he can yet state if he can take any steps before the close of the Session towards preparing for the promised Inquiry into the financial relations between Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom:

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I am not sure who gave the promise to which the hon. Member refers, but it was not Her Majesty's present advisers. In any case, the question could not even be discussed until we have had an opportunity of studying the methods and results of the Inquiry into the financial relations with Ireland.

### LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): I beg to ask you, Mr. Speaker, as a point of Order, whether under the Resolution passed by the House on 27th February, the First Lord of the Treasury can move that Clauses 4, 5, 13, 14, and 15 of the Land Bill be withdrawn, seeing that, with regard to Clause 4, it is not a withdrawal in the ordinary Committee practice, but a withdrawal in order to substitute another clause for it. The next point is whether the Motion to withdraw must not be made before the claim is reached, and whether Clause 4 has not already been reached, inasmuch as the Question 'that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill" has already been put to the House and partly discussed.

*MR. SPEAKER: As to the first Question there can be no doubt as to the right to move to withdraw the clauses. The right hon. Gentleman's point will arise later on when the Motion is made to add this new clause and when the Chairman of Committees is in the Chair, and it would not be right for me to anticipate the Chairman's decision. As to the second point, that is also one on which I ought not to express an opinion. The right hon. Gentleman asks me to give an opinion as to the effect of certain proceedings taken in Committee on Thursday upon a question which will be raised in Committee to-day. That, I take it, is a matter on which I should be wrong in offering any opinion, as the whole of the facts are within the knowledge of the Chairman of Committees, and not in my knowledge, and the responsibility is with him. I should be quite wrong if I attempted to anticipate his decision.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (GOVERNMENT BUSINESS).

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY rose to move:—

> "That for the remainder of the Session Government business be not interruped under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the sittings of the House, and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed; and that at the conclusion of Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without question put."

He said: In rising to make the Motion which stands in my name, and which is identical in terms with that made by the right hon. Gentleman opposite the year before last, it will be proper, and the House will expect, that I should give it some idea of the views of the Government with regard to the present position and future prospects of public business. I may, perhaps, conveniently begin by telling the House how matters stand with regard to Supply. The new Rule has been in operation for 18 days out of the 20 minimum days allowed by the Standing Order. On the whole, I think it will be admitted, whether the Rule has worked ill or well for the prospect of Government legislation, it has undoubtedly worked well for the proper discussion of Supply. [*Cheers.*] There is no doubt that to give up the Friday in each week, which might otherwise be occupied for Government business, is a certain amount of sacrifice on the part of the Government; but I think it has been a sacrifice well bestowed. ["Hear, hear!"] If the House agrees with me in thinking that it is for its dignity and utility and for the convenience of private Members anxious to make their criticism known that this rule should be maintained, I hope they will make it a success in this its first year of trial. We have actually to vote £73,436,148 in the course of the Session, and of that amount we have in round numbers voted £66,000,000—[*cheers*]—leaving, therefore, £7,300,000 still to be dealt with. In the actual number of Votes we have not made so satisfactory a progress, as there are a large number of items still to be disposed of, but these are for the most part of a very uncontroversial character, and they have habitually gone through without any serious discussion, and I hope we shall get through the vast majority of them before the last day comes under the Standing Order. I do not propose to hold the House to the minimum of 20 days—["hear, hear!"]—but my idea is to give the full additional three days which we are permitted to do under the Standing Order. I hope in these three days we shall be seconded by Gentlemen in all parts of the House, so that next year there will be no doubt in any quarter of the House but that a Rule similar to this should be re-enacted as part of our permanent procedure. It is evident we must pass, before separating for the holidays, the Finance Bill, the Light Railways Bill, which has reached the Third Reading stage, the Conciliation Bill, the Truck, the Coal Mines, and the Locomotives Bills, which have passed through Grand Committee, and which stand now for discussion on the Report stage. These are not Measures which ought to take any prolonged discussion. They are Measures which we must undoubtedly pass into law before we separate. While making that statement I do not think we shall have severely to tax the patience or endurance of the House. In the Committee stage there still remain the Scotch Rating Bill, the West Highland Railway (Guarantee) Bill. In the Second Reading stage there is the Uganda Railway Bill, and there still remains to be introduced by the Chief Secretary the Irish Rating Bill, dealing with the share of Ireland of the grant which falls to that country in consequence of the passing of the English Rating Bill. Whether it should be a Bill handing the money over to the Irish Local Taxation Account, or whether the money must be actually allocated to agricultural purposes in Ireland in the course of the present Session, is still a matter open to doubt. There are, in addition to these general Bills, certain Departmental Bills that must be passed. There is the Telegraph Money Bill, the Public Works Loans Bill, the Expiring Laws Continuation Bill, the Friendly Societies Bill, and the Collecting Societies Bill. I believe these two last are Consolidation Bills, on which no discussion need be expected. I now come to the category of Bills which ought to pass, and which I believe can be passed. There is the Military Manœuvres Bill—[*cheers*]—which is very advanced in the Committee stage, in which every desire has been shown by my hon. Friend in charge of the Bill to meet the views of critics opposite, for which there has been a very strong wish expressed—among others sitting on the other side of the House, by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean—and the passage of which, for the sake of our military efficiency, ought not long to be delayed. [*Cheers.*] Then there is a Bill to which I have more than once made reference, the Military Works Loans Bill, which is in effect a continuance Bill to the Bill passed two or three years ago, to provide money by loan for building barracks, for which there is now very urgent need, and completing certain other necessary works. That Bill has not yet been introduced, but it is ready to be introduced at any time. Then there remains another military Bill for which, I believe, there is a general desire in all parts of the House—the Military Lands Bill. [*Opposition cries of* "No, no!"] I understand it is not seriously opposed. I understand that this is a Bill which, having for its object the provision of ranges in various parts of the country, Gentlemen representing all classes of constituencies would desire to see passed. ["Hear, hear!"] Then I come to the series of Bills which I have no hope of passing if there is any serious opposition to them. In many cases I do not think they will be seriously opposed, and it rests with the House to say whether they shall become law or not during the present Session. They are the Irish Light Railways Bill, the Naval Reserve Bill, the London University Bill, the Stannaries Bill, the Official Secrets Bill, the Election Petitions Bill—which I believe was brought in by Lord Herschell during the time of the last Government and has for its principal object the relief from severe penalties of a gentleman who has suffered under the Election Laws—the Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill, the Railway Assessors (Scotland) Bill, the Larceny Bill, the Burglary Bill, and the Public Health Bill. I believe these Bills are not seriously opposed, but if they are there will be no attempt made to pass them. We abandoned on Thursday last a considerable number of Bills, and in addition to those we propose to take off the Order Paper the Local Government (Aldershot and Farnborough) Bill, the Stipendiary Magistrates (Ireland) Bill—[*Nationalist cheers*]—the Berriew School Bill, the Post Office Consolidation Bill, the Teachers' Registration Bill, the Land Tax Commissioners Bill, and the Army Reserve Bill. These Bills will be discharged at as early a date as possible. So far I have dealt, as the House will see, simply with Government Bills, and there remains the more painful task of dealing with those private Bills which still remain on the Paper, and with which considerable progress has been made. The House will have perceived that the Resolution is so drawn that no private Bill can, as it stands, have any chance at all of coming on for further discussion, and I see no possibility of relaxing that Rule in any respect with regard to any Bill to which even the smallest opposition is offered. The House will readily understand the reason why I make that statement. My predecessors, and indeed I myself, have had to make similar statements on similar occasions, and a very disagreeable task it is for the Minister who has to make the statement. The two Bills which have been through Grand Committee, and which seemed likely at one time to have full advantage of the Rule which gives private Bills which have gone through Grand Committee precedence after Whitsuntide, are the Shop Hours Bill and the Benefices Bill. The Shop Hours Bill has indeed passed through Grand Committee, but the Report stage has not yet been even begun, and in view of the opposition which I know will be offered to that Bill, my right hon. Friend who is in charge of the Bill, and who has taken so much trouble in connection with it will not be surprised, though I fear he will be pained, at learning that I can hold out no hope whatever that any opportunity can be given whatever for making further progress with the Bill. The Benefices Bill stands in a more favourable position, because not only has it passed through Grand Committee, but two full Wednesdays have already been devoted to its discussion on the Report stage. Yet, having taken the utmost pains to satisfy myself with regard to the Parliamentary prospects of that Bill, I have to state to the House that I think it would be quite impossible to find the necessary time for carrying the Bill further. [*Opposition cheers.*] The Bill was discussed for nine days in Grand Committee — a most unusual period—and during the two days on which it was discussed on the Report stage, those in charge of the Bill were not able to make further progress than to get to the end of Clause 1; and I think I am stating what is within the knowledge of every man who has carefully watched the proceedings of the House with regard to the Bill, when I state that whereas the opposition to the Bill hitherto had been confined, during all this long discussion, for the most part to persons sitting on this side of the House, who I hope are in sympathy with Church reform—["Hear, hear!"]—there is a not unimportant phalanx of Gentlemen, not, perhaps, so anxious for Church reform, who are quite ready to throw in the full force of their opposition at the last moment, should the energy of my hon. Friends on this side of the House show any signs of flagging. [*Laughter.*] This is no laughing matter, because in view of the enormous majority by which the Bill was passed, and in view of the great interests with which it deals, I confess I think it is a very lamentable thing that we should now, at the eleventh hour, be obliged to abandon the fruit of so much sustained Parliamentary and extra-Parliamentary labour. [*Cheers.*] I certainly should hope that the subject of this Bill may at no distant date be taken up under circumstances which will make the prospects of passing a Measure dealing with this part of the law more happy than they could be under the conditions under which this Bill was introduced. The truth is, and I think my noble Friend in charge of the Measure will be prepared to admit it, that the prospect of getting through a Bill of this magnitude, complexity, and controversial character, in the time that can be allotted to a Bill introduced by a private Member, is so slight that those who set themselves the task will have to learn something by experience, and have to deal with the question more piecemeal — [" Hear, hear ! "]—and in a somewhat less ambitious manner. Still, I hope that the ambition, the noble ambition of the promoters of the Bill will bear fruit in the future, and that this Parliament will show itself not unequal to the task of dealing with those wants of the Church of England of which it is in so large a measure the guardian. [" Hear, hear ! "] It now only remains for me to state the actual terms of the Motion, and to recommend them to the House ; but before I do that I would wish to repeat that if there be a private Bill which is in the condition of a Bill that can pass after 12 o'clock--that is to say to which there is no opposition at all—I think arrangements may be made by a well-known method for giving such a Bill an opportunity of passing.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill ?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY : Having dashed for the moment, though, I hope, only for the moment, the hopes of hon. Friends of my own who are interested in the Benefices Bill, I am not likely to find extra-Parliamentary time for the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. [Hear, hear !"] With regard to the Motion itself, I have followed with a faithful, and I hope he will regard it as a flattering, accuracy the example of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, when he was in charge of the business of the House. It is true that he made his Motion at a relatively later period of the Session, and when the bulk, perhaps all, of the controversial business had been got through—[*Opposition cheers*]—but I would remind those who regard that point as material that what had not been got through in 1894 was Supply. [*Cheers.*] It has been my object, as far as possible, to get Supply on at reasonable hours, so that the discussion on questions arising out of the Votes might be taken when the House was still fresh. [" Hear, hear ! "] I have no expectation that if this House consents to pass this Resolution tonight, any unnecessary or undue burdens will be thrown on hon. Members. It is not the intention of the Government to ask you, Mr. Speaker, to occupy that chair night after night till the small hours of the morning. If the legislative business of the House passes, as I hope it may pass, smoothly and easily, there really will be no reason whatever why we should sit frequently to any late hour at all. In the course of the present Session we have had a good many long sittings, and if similar difficulties arise during the remainder of the Session, we shall be compelled, much against our will, to adopt methods we have before adopted. I have no ground, however, for thinking that such a state of things is possible. I hope we have passed the acutely controversial stage of the Session, and that we may get through the not very formidable programme I have asked the House to consider without requiring Members of the House to be deprived of necessary rest for any length of time. The 12 o'clock Rule was devised for the convenience of the House. I am asking the House to dispense with the 12 o'clock Rule for its own convenience and for no other purpose. If the Measures were rejected by the House the result would not be that we should drop Bills I have stated that we mean to pass, but the result would be that we should have to sit longer to pass them ; and, looking at matters from all sides, I really think that Members in all quarters of the House would prefer to sit an hour or so longer every night and get their holidays earlier than stop short at 12 o'clock and be here late in August. [" Hear, hear ! " *and* " No ! "] I have explained the policy of the Government. I hope it will commend itself to both sides of the House. No doubt I have said some things which may be unpalatable to those who take an interest in private Bills.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.): Has the right hon. Gentleman dropped the Irish Land Bill? [*Nationalist laughter and cheers.*]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I did not mention the Irish Land Bill. The peculiar position of the Bill has been stated so often by myself and so recently by my right hon. Friend the Secretary for the Colonies that I did not think any special notice of it was necessary. Perhaps here I ought to say that it will not be in the power of the Government to accept some of the Amendments to the Motion that are on the Paper. The two Amendments standing in the name of the hon. Member for Lanark I have already answered. With regard to the first and third Amendments, it is evident that the Government cannot accept them. We must pass the Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, and anything which impedes its passing cannot be accepted by us. With regard to the Amendment of the hon. Member for the Flint Boroughs, I think he will see that, whereas he appears to have intended to substitute 1 o'clock for 12 'clock, it will not have that effect, and if it had it is not a limitation of procedure that we could accept. I beg, Sir, to move the Motion that stands in my name. [*Cheers.*]

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.), who was received with Opposition cheers, said: Sir, the right hon. Gentleman was good enough to say he had offered me the flattery of adopting the words of the Resolution which I moved in the year 1894. He alluded in a rather cursory manner to the fact that the Resolution applied itself to a condition of things absolutely different from that to which he now proposes to apply it. I desire to state to the House what has been the practice of Parliament, adopted after the fullest consideration, with reference to the Motion for suspending the 12 o'clock rule *en permanence*, as I may describe it. That matter was considered in 1893, when Mr. Gladstone was Leader of the House. Mr. Gladstone originally suggested the Motion for suspending the 12 o'clock rule, which would have covered various controversial Bills. It may be in the recollection of many Members of the House that, after the Home Rule Bill had passed in the September, it was proposed to have an autumn or winter Session in November to pass two Bills—the Employers' Liability Bill and the Parish Councils Bill. Mr. Gladstone, before presenting that Motion to the House, altered it in a most material form—that it should not be understood to cover any controversial legislation whatever. That was the great point argued and decided upon that occasion. He also introduced into his Motion a condition that prevented the House sitting at all after 1 o'clock. Therefore, these two principles were laid down—first of all, that the suspension of the 12 o'clock rule should not cover any controversial legislation; and, secondly, that the sitting should not be prolonged beyond 1 o'clock. Now, it was on these conditions and these alone that the Motion was accepted by the Opposition, which was then led by the right hon. Gentleman, and he expressed himself in terms which are deserving of the attention of the House upon the subject of the 12 o'clock rule. He said that in old days the protection that the House had against a Government with a majority abusing its powers by late sittings upon Bills had been effective for that purpose for the protection of the minority. But the 12 o'clock rule, when introduced, was a better protection, and he then pointed out what would be the effect of a Resolution such as that which he has now put into the Speaker's hand when it covered controversial legislation. These were his words, and I quote them in the hope that the right hon. Gentleman will adhere to them. He said:—

"To abolish the 12 o'clock rule and sweep away the old system"

(the system of Motions for adjournments)

"at the same time is to hand over the minority, bound hand and foot, to the majority, and, as we know, this particular Opposition and all Oppositions are people upon whom devolves the carrying on of such criticism of Government Bills as may be necessary."

Therefore, in the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman, to suspend the 12 o'clock rule in a general form is to deprive——

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: With a proviso that no Motions for adjournment were made.

SIR W. HARCOURT: Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will allow me to proceed.

"The Government themselves"

(this, I think, is well-founded criticism)

"usually take so favourable a view of their own legislative projects that they think they are quite good enough to pass through the House without any discussion at all."

These are the one-clause Bills of which we have heard.

"It is plain there would be great temptation to a Government possessing, as they must always, a large majority towards the end of the Session to carry to an undue length the discussion of their business unless the minority have restored to them the weapon with which alone they fought before the 12 o'clock rule was established."

That was the doctrine the right hon. Gentleman laid down, and he insisted that the only conditions upon which the House should accept the Motion to suspend the 12 o'clock rule should be that no controversial Measures should be proceeded with after that hour. That was accepted by the Government, and it fell to me (for Mr. Gladstone had to leave the House after making the Motion) to give a pledge to the House that no controversial legislative Measures should be taken when the rule was suspended. There was a long discussion as to what controversial Bills should be proceeded with, and upon that we had the doctrine I have referred to laid down by the right hon. Gentleman himself and the First Lord of the Admiralty. One Bill which was greatly discussed as to whether it should come within the rule was the Equalisation of Rates Bill for London. That Bill was supported by almost all the London Members except the Member for St. George's Hanover Square. [*Laughter.*] The present Leader of the House laid down the rule that it was not because a Bill was approved of by a majority in both Houses that it was a non-controversial Bill. He said:—

"I wish to be perfectly clear on the point that Bills are not only controversial, but, if objected to on this side of the House, as against Members on that side, and full of detail, would require a considerable amount of discussion."

That was the test laid down by the right hon. Gentleman and accepted by the Government of the day, and every controversial Measure was excepted and dismissed as soon as this rule was passed. On September 7 I stated the Bills that would be proceeded with, and all those of a controversial character were abandoned. The House would not suspend the 12 o'clock rule until all controversial legislative business was at an end. When I became responsible for the business of the House in 1894 I fully accepted and acted upon that principle. It was as near as possible at this date in 1894. The Session of that year was shorter by one month than the present Session. It began on March 12, after the retirement of Mr. Gladstone, and therefore we had arrived, with a month less of the Session, at the same date at which we stand, and it was on July 18 that I stated the Measures which the Government intended to adopt. I did not ask for the suspension of the 12 o'clock rule. I stated the Bills we intended to proceed with in the ordinary course, without any extraordinary proceedings, and I held out the expectation to the House that we should conclude by the end of August. The right hon. Gentleman agreed with the justice of that course in regard to the Measures I read out, which I may say were about half the number the right hon. Gentleman has now read to the House. But the next day the right hon. Gentleman the present Chancellor of the Exchequer moved the adjournment of the House in order to attack the Government upon the legislative programme which we had laid before the House. The right hon. Gentleman treated me with severe sarcasm on that occasion. The present Colonial Secretary also entered into an elaborate calculation to show how impossible it was that the programme could be got through before November. I proposed to give two days to the Indian Budget, and the right hon. Gentleman the present Leader of the House said that in the circumstances the Indian Budget would come on about the middle of November. But I endured that ridicule, remembering the proverb that those laugh best that laugh last, and it so happened that by August 16 the whole of that programme, almost without exception, and several other Bills, were carried into law. [*Cheers.*] After that demonstration I shall not criticise the list of Bills which the right hon. Gentleman has laid before us. Learning wisdom by experience, I shall not attempt to give an arithmetical calculation as to the number of days each Bill—including the Irish Land Bill and the Scotch Rating Bill—will require. I shall not expose myself to the refutation of facts which overwhelmed the prognostications of right hon. Gentlemen opposite. [*Cheers.*] I hope they may have as fortunate a fate as I experienced in 1894. That, then, is what we did in 1894. We laid before the House what we thought a reasonable programme which could be carried without recourse to exceptional measures. We did not ask for the suspension of the 12 o'clock rule at all until the whole of that programme had been accomplished. [*Cheers.*] I should say that on that occasion the present Secretary to the Colonies said—

> "Since I have been in the House of Commons, I admit that every Government in turn have accused the Opposition of obstruction. Opposition to the Government always appears like obstruction; and I think great credit is due to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for not having repeated that hackneyed cry."

[*Cheers.*] I thanked the right hon. Gentleman then and I thank him now for having done me that justice. [*Cheers.*] I do not think it wise or even dignified to be always whining about obstruction. [*Loud cheers.*] I always remember the old saying that it is the bad workman who complains of his tools. [*Cheers.*] The reason why the Colonial Secretary implored us in 1894 not to go on with the programme we successfully carried through was that the actual Session only began on March 12; that it was a very short Session, and had already done good work. The right hon. Gentleman asked was it not a good record for the House of Commons to make in a single Session to carry through three such Bills as the Budget Bill, the Employers' Liability Bill, and the Parish Councils Bill? "I do not think," he said,—

> "that in the history of our legislation for the last 20 years you could find any Parliament in which more has been done—that is, as to the importance of the Bills that have been passed."

[*Cheers.*] I hope these words will be remembered when the House of Commons is charged, by men who are its Leaders, with being incapable of doing its business. [*Loud cheers.*] The right hon. Gentleman also said,—

> "I say again that this Session of Parliament has done more legislative work than any Parliament which has sat for 20 years,"

and he went into an elaborate proof of how Parliament had done more work and was capable of doing more work than it had done before obstruction was heard of. "You may say," he said,—

> "that this Parliament has done as much as was accomplished during the eventful years of 1869 to 1874."

That was the testimony of the Colonial Secretary as to what the last Parliament was able to accomplish; and it was not found necessary in that Parliament to suspend the 12 o'clock rule in order to carry its legislative business. [*Cheers.*] It was not until our programme for the Session of 1894 was accomplished that, on August 16, I moved to suspend the 12 o'clock rule. I should like to state the terms in which I gave notice of that Motion. On the 15th of August I said:—

> "I desire to give notice that to-morrow I will move, as is usual when the legislative business of the Session practically reaches its end, the following Resolution."

and then I read the words which the right hon. Gentleman has adopted. But why has not the right hon. Gentleman accepted the preamble, that the legislative business of the Session has been completed? [*Cheers.*] The right hon. Gentleman then accepted that Motion. He said:—

> "It was to apply to Supply only, but he hoped the House would not be asked to sit at undue length, and that if an important vote came on after 12 o'clock the Government would not enforce its being discussed, but would go on to a less controversial vote."

I say it is impossible to conceive a more careful and deliberate decision of the House of Commons only to suspend the 12 o'clock rule in regard to non-controversial Measures. [*Cheers.*] That is what the present Government when in Opposition demanded—that is what the present Opposition when in Government agreed to, as the proper method of dealing with the question of the suspension of the 12 o'clock rule. [*Cheers.*] I ask, then what is the meaning of the right hon. Gentleman coming forward and making this proposal to cover controversial legislative business? What is the justification for it? [*Cheers.*] We passed our Measures and concluded the Session in 1894 in the time we appointed without having to resort to the course which is now proposed. I said the Session would conclude by the end of August. It concluded on the 23rd of August, earlier than I had reason to anticipate. What is the meaning, therefore, of this demand—a demand which has never been made upon the House before, a demand which is contrary to the whole practice of the House, a demand which is contrary to the precedent solemnly established in 1894? [*Cheers.*] A great deal has been said on the subject of Closure by compartments. Gentlemen opposite say they disapprove of it. [*Ministerial cheers.*] So do I. [*Cheers.*] I think it a very reprehensible practice. [*Ministerial cheers.*] Yes; but it is to your ingenuity we owe it; it was you who set the precedent for the first time. [*Cheers.*]

The FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: It was set in 1882.

SIR W. HARCOURT: No; I think it was during the Coercion Act of 1887. [*Cheers.*] But I do not wish to raise these controversies. [*Ministerial laughter.*] If you like I will, and I will insist that it was you who set the precedent, because it is the fact. [*Cheers.*] It is, I think, a most undesirable practice, and I have never been a party to it, except with great reluctance. It is a curious fact that it has only been applied in connection with Irish Bills. But if it is justifiable at all, it can only be justified by extreme necessity. Everyone will, I think, admit that. But, in my opinion, Closure by all-night sittings is a very much worse form of Closure. [*Cheers.*] It has precisely the same effect. It passes legislative Measures without proper discussion, and it passes them with greater inconvenience to everybody than Closure by compartments. It is extremely inconvenient to the minority, but it is stil more inconvenient to the majority because there are more of them—[*laughter*]—and it is therefore about the worst form of Closure that you could possibly apply. For what is the suspension of the 12 o'clock rule? It is practically giving the Government the right to perpetual all-night sittings. [*Cheers.*] Of course you may say you will not use it unless you want it. But you have no right to ask the minority to pass such Bills as the Irish Land Bill and the Scotch Rating Bill—the two most controversial Bills of the Session—during all-night sittings. [*Cheers.*] It is too much to ask the House to accept. There is nothing to prevent the Government if they like from passing every one of their controversial Measures by all-night sittings. Where is the proof of the necessity of anything like what the right hon. Gentleman proposes? I point to the years 1893 and 1894 to show that a Government can, without asking for any power of this kind, pass legislation of a very respectable character. In the short Session between March 12 and August 16, 1894, we passed the Finance Act, the Local Government (Scotland) Act, the Equalisation of Rates (London) Act, the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, the Housing of the Working Classes Act, and, of smaller Measures, the Notices of Accidents Act, the Building Societies Act, the Merchant Shipping Consolidated Act, the Diseases of Animals Act, the London Improvement Act, the Thames Conservancy Act, the Wild Birds Protection Act, and others. Those were passed without suspending the 12 o'clock rule at all. I know the right hon. Gentleman entertains a low opinion of the power of the House of Commons to do business. ["Hear, hear!"] He has said,—

> "One lesson that I drew is that until the Rules of Procedure are fundamentally altered, if that time has ever to come, it is absolutely necessary to deal with legislative problems by short Bills,"

and he added,—

> "I am unable to conceive a situation under which in future it will be possible for any Government to bring in a long and contentious Measure, and hope to pass it through the House of Commons in one Session."

What has led him to that conclusion? Your Parliament and your majority? But it was not impossible for our Parliament with our majority to pass a long Bill during a single Session. [MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: "Hear, hear!"] There is the testimony of the right hon. Gentleman who cheers me that no Parliament ever passed so many important Bills. I dare say the right hon. Gentleman means the Closure by compartments of the Home Rule Bill, but let me mention to him some other Bills. Was the Parish Council Bill a short Bill? The last Parliament did not find it impossible to pass the Parish Council Bill, which took 40 days and was encountered by an opposition—I do not like to use the adjectives—persistent and, to borrow a phrase of the right hon. Gentleman, garrulous. [*Laughter.*] The right hon. Gentleman, assuming the new character of a Parliamentary handicapper, has told us, on the authority of Admiral Rous, that there is not a difference of more than 4 lb. or 6 lb. between one jockey than another. [*Laughter.*] I do not know that I should call my right hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton exactly a light weight—[*laughter*]—I should hardly like to place myself in that category—[*renewed laughter*]—but my right hon. Friend did not abandon the Parish Council Bill, after five days in Committee, on account of obstruction. No, Sir, my right hon. Friend could give the present Government 2 stone and a beating. [*Laughter.*] But the right hon. Gentleman's images are not at an end, for he tells us he thinks the Angel Gabriel would have been a very moderate manager of the House of Commons. [*Renewed laughter.*] I dare say he would. We do not pretend to the attributes of the Angel Gabriel, but we never found that difficulty in passing a long Bill in a single Session. I should like to ask whether the Finance Bill of 1894 was a short Bill. In that short Session that long Bill went through. There were 37 days given to it. Amendments after Amendments were piled upon it every morning, but we did not whimper about obstruction. We went on with it and we did not turn round after five days in Committee, and say, "Oh, the House of Commons is incapable of doing business." We went on to show that the House of Commons was capable of doing business. ["Hear, hear!" *and cheers.*] The House of Commons is—I was almost going to use the word—slandered by its Leader, and is held up to the country as a body which is incapable of doing its business. I think the phrase which the right hon. Gentleman used, in order to explain his disasters, was "that it was due to the essential characteristics of Debate in the modern House of Commons." No; it was not due to the characteristics of Debate in the modern House of Commons. It was due to the characteristics of the present Administration. [*Cheers.*] That is the ground of these denunciations of the House of Commons. The right hon. Gentleman tells us that one of his great misfortunes is that he has not got any Opposition. [*Laughter.*] That is most unfortunate; we do our best to accommodate him; if we can do better I promise him we will try. [*Renewed laughter.*] He said that in the old days there was always a homogeneous Opposition. Was there? What was the Opposition from 1880 to 1885? [*Cheers.*] Was there not a Tory Party supported by Mr. Parnell and his followers, and, I will not say supported, but harried by the Party which sat below the Gangway—the Fourth Party. The right hon. Gentleman may remember these things when he talks of former days. [*Laughter.*] Oh, no, it is not the want of an Opposition, it is not the incapacity of the House of Commons to pass a long Bill in a short Session, that has led to the disaster which induced the right hon. Gentleman to ask for methods of coercion which have never been given before and which I hope the House of Commons will never give. If you wobble with your Bills; if you do not know your own mind; if you put down Amendments one day and withdraw them the next—["hear, hear!"]—and after having withdrawn the Amendments, withdraw the clause to which they were proposed; if the Measures you bring forward are not supported by your own Party; if you have a divided council and a distracted Party, well, then, you cannot expect to pass either long Bills or short Bills in a single Session. I protest against this endeavour to hold up the House of Commons to the contempt of the country. [*Loud cheers.*] Why, in 1896, is the House of Commons, with a great Conservative majority, incapable of passing a long Bill in a single Session? Some explanation of that is required from the Leader of the House before he denounces the impotence and the incapacity of the House before the country. At the beginning of his speech the right hon. Gentleman spoke of Supply. We have not come yet to the guillotine, and there was an old saying of a wise man that you call no man happy till his death. I therefore shall not venture to express an opinion upon your scheme of Supply until Supply has come to a close ; but the right hon. Gentleman said that in 1894 we gave less time to Supply than you are giving. As far as I can ascertain, the number of days we gave to Supply in that short Session was, as near as possible, the same number that you will give this year. With Supply I hope the House will deal reasonably ; I have no reason to anticipate they will do otherwise. As to the Bills the right hon. Gentleman referred to, I have only to say that many of them, I have no doubt, are Bills that might, with advantage, be passed in the few weeks which still remain before the time contemplated for proroguing Parliament. But amongst those Bills are Bills of the gravest importance, and of the most controversial character, and for which, I say, he has no right to suspend the 12 o'clock rule. What I would recommend him to do is to postpone, as he did in 1894, to a later period the making of this Motion. He should adjourn this Debate, go on with the controversial Measures, and when he has got rid of the controversial Measures and reached the point which we reached in the middle of August 1894, come forward with this Motion, which would receive the support of the Opposition, as it did in 1894. That is what we are entitled to ask. I have been always extremely ready and willing to enter into arrangements with reference to the close of the Session, and I have always found the right hon. Gentleman, when he was in Opposition, prepared to make similar amicable arrangements. But arrangements have only been concluded on the basis of not suspending the 12 o'clock rule with reference to controversial business. We took a month for legislative Measures after the statement that I made on July 18, and they were all completed by August 16. If they had not been completed some of them would have been dropped. When they had been disposed of, there being some Supply left, we made the Motion similar to this. Those are the circumstances in which this Motion should be applied, and I cannot conceive why the right hon. Gentleman should not take the same course. Let him take his chance for the next month with his controversial Measures and then let him make this Motion for the disposal of such business as Supply, and he will not meet with opposition. But if this Motion is to hang as a sword over our heads, if it is intended to force through by all-night sittings Measures of a most controversial character, we must offer most strenuous opposition both to the Resolution and its application. [*Cheers.*]

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) observed that his memory went back to the days when there was neither a 12 o'clock Rule nor even a 12.30 Rule, and when Ministers had only two days a week at their disposal, and were, nevertheless, able to carry through a good many Measures. The Leader of the Opposition had reminded the House of former achievements and failures, but that list was of no more interest than the pages of a long disused Bradshaw's Railway Guide. What they had to regard now was the present state of business and the view the country took of the position. From one end of the country to the other men were asking what was the use of a Parliamentary majority of 150—[*ironical Opposition cheers*]—if it could not legislate. The nation expected that an earnest effort would be made to pass useful Measures which it had been demonstrated were wanted. Nothing could be more dangerous from the point of view of those who wished business to be done than to take the advice of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, and to defer the request for an extension of their hours. If this Motion were deferred they would be driven into a corner and it would become almost hopeless to pass the Measures awaiting disposal. They ought to take steps to prevent this Session from being a ghastly failure. Would the House of Commons retain its credit if it should fail as a legislative machine, and was not the view already largely prevalent that the House was not fulfilling the very purpose for which it existed? The practice of wasting Parliamentary time and thus defeating Measures had become almost an exact science which this Session had reached a point never attained in former years. Hon. Members ought to be willing to sacrifice, if necessary, a portion of their holidays. It was absurd to talk as if a prorogation in the middle of August was the one thing which must not be lost sight of. Only after the Bills which the Government thought ought to be passed had become law ought the House to think of holidays. If the Leader of the House made a point of carrying all the most important Measures of the Government his Party would stand by him. [" Hear ! "]

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean), referring to the views expressed by the right hon. Baronet, said that, in his opinion, nothing was more likely to render this Session a ghastly failure and to destroy the credit of the House of Commons than the passing of a Motion of this kind. [" Hear, hear ! "] It was not only without precedent, but would strike a severe blow at their methods of procedure. It would interfere with their comfort, and was opposed to the public interest. He would show how. He did not care that the reports of their proceedings should be very full, but there ought to be a fairly full and accurate record of what passed in that House, so that those outside who were interested in different subjects might know what was done. If this Motion were adopted such a record would not be supplied. They would undoubtedly sit up night after night until a very late hour, if not all night, and the business would be transacted by relays of Members under the control of Whips. In those circumstances, they could not expect an accurate report of their Debates, it being impossible to organise relief staffs of reporters of the same calibre as those who ordinarily reported the proceedings in that House. Then the proposal of the Government was a very serious thing as regarded the health of Members. There were, no doubt, objections to longer Sessions, but surely the disadvantages of sitting up very late night after night for a month were far greater than those that would be involved in their meeting for a longer period of the year. This rule would apply in the case of far more important Measures than any to which such a Motion had ever applied before, and it applied to Wednesdays as well as other days. There would, in fact, be nothing to prevent the House from sitting permanently. He did not know what a jury would say if the health of Members broke down and the Leader of the House were committed on a charge of murder.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: The speech of the right hon. Baronet is based on the hypothesis that the desire of the Government is to have all-night sittings. I did not say that; in fact, I said precisely the contrary.

*Sir C. DILKE remarked that Members of the Front Ministerial Bench always said that. It was the long list of Measures that had to be disposed of that must be taken into account. Governments, of course, always said that it was not their intention to keep the House sitting all night, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman opposite had said that on the two last occasions when he suspended the 12 o'clock Rule, and yet the House did sit all night. No doubt they would not feel the full force of what they were doing for a few days. The Government Whips would be anxious to falsify the predictions of their opponents, and would arrange with Members that Bills should not be taken on a particular night; but when they came to consider the importance of the Bills on the Paper it was certain the House would be asked to sit night after night all night under circumstances which would justify a fair jury in bringing in a verdict of attempted murder against the Leader of the House—[*a laugh*]—for the proceedings he was asking the House to take. With regard to the condition of Supply, he did not know whether they were to have a Vote—he rather imagined they were—in regard to the Soudan war; but putting that aside—and he need hardly say the Vote would be highly controversial—there were left over for discussion the Debates on those Government Departments, the administration of which had to be criticised by the House with that fair and full scrutiny which was the object of the Resolution of the right hon. Gentleman. There were, for example, the Home Office Vote, the Local Government Board Vote, the Board of Trade Vote, and the Vote for the Office of Woods, and so forth. It was only under the Home Office Vote they could criticise the administration of the Factory Acts and the great changes introduced during the last few years. It was neither lengthy nor hostile criticism that was likely to be aroused, but criticism which a great many people wanted to have at an hour when they would know what was going on. The right hon. Gentleman thought he proved his case with regard to the successful working of the new rule for Supply by quoting the millions of money that had been voted, but in point of fact the importance of a discussion in Supply had nothing to do with the amount of money involved. Take the Ordnance Factories Vote. That was only a Vote for £100, the bulk of the money being repaid from other Departments, and it was put on the Estimates at the desire of the Comptroller and Auditor General simply in order that the enormously important subjects, military and labour, which it raised, should be adequately discussed. There were other contentious Measures to which different observations applied, and he held that they would defeat one of the main reasons for which Parliament existed if they carried on its proceedings in the dead of night. [*Ministerial cheers.*] There were some bills which were not controversial, but which yet contained points that ought to be dealt with in the day time. Take the Truck Bill and the Coal Mines Bill—he would not mention the Conciliation Bill. There were Amendments upon each of these Bills, not likely indeed to take very long, but specially interesting to important classes outside the House, who would want to know what had passed when these Amendments were discussed. He would bring these remarks to a conclusion by saying that in his opinion discussion, reasonable and legitimate, was one of the duties which Parliament had to discharge, and that discussion was no real discussion if it was forced on in the dead hours of night when the proceedings of Parliament could not be properly reported in the Press.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said that he had that day a very disagreeable duty to perform, and that was to vote against the Leader of his Party, because the Motion appeared to him to be in the present case absolutely unjustifiable. His right hon. Friend, according to a speech he made the other day, evidently looked upon the House of Commons as a machine that was rather out of working order owing to the development of eloquence and power of speech. Now, he looked upon that as one of the greatest safeguards of the institutions of the country. [*Cheers.*] He looked upon it as impossible in the present day to carry through this House any contentious Measure upon which there was not a certainty that the will of the country was absolutely bound up. If the opinion of the country had been clearly ascertained about some of the Measures which they were discussing this Session, in his opinion they never would have been dropped, and they ultimately probably would have become law. His right hon. Friend, he believed, never would have made this Motion, but for the Irish Land Bill. He himself looked upon that Bill as one of the gravest interest to Ireland. A controversial Measure like the Irish Land Bill, affecting, as it did, the gravest interests in Ireland, and the principles which used to belong to the Conservative Party ought not to be discussed in the early hours of the morning in the present canicular atmosphere. [*Laughter.*] To force on the discussion of such a Bill at this period of the Session was, to his mind, not a satisfactory method of procedure, and was unjust to the Unionist Members of the House. His right hon. Friend in a recent very interesting speech, in alluding to the difficulties of the Government, compared his position as the Leader of the House to that of the manager of a music-hall, the artists of which were not satisfied with one performance, but consented to receive one, two, three, four, and sometimes five encores—["Hear, hear!" *and laughter*] — which very naturally impeded the business, and brought the performance to an untimely end at midnight. Perhaps it might be of use to his right hon. Friend if he ventured to express the views of the House of Commons side of the subject. [*Laughter.*] He would use the same method, and would take the case of the manager of a music-hall, with artists of distinguished ability, their time being limited to 12 o'clock. The artists were told to perform in public, with only one restriction, namely, that they were to go on until the audience would listen to them no longer. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*]

The last item would be an Irish manifestation of ingenuity—an Irish artist, as they knew, could sing for three hours and 20 minutes. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] What happened? When the time limit for the performance was nearly exhausted, the manager came forward and said:—

> "We will cram all the remainder of our programme into the extreme end of the performance."

And so, on a question of such vital importance as the Irish Land Bill, the Government wished to force the House of Commons to discuss and decide upon the questions it involved at a time which would absolutely preclude the possibility of fair Debate. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I never said that.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said that, at all events, that was what the right hon. Gentleman meant by the language he had used. It did not require great ingenuity to look forward to what an Irish landlord would be in the immediate future — he would be a melancholy spectacle, attenuated by the administration of drastic Land Bills and predatory Land Commissions, who would meander over what was once his property in search of his incorporeal hereditaments. ["Hear, hear!"] He protested against the House of Commons dealing with questions of such importance at the end of the Session without time being given them to fairly discuss the various provisions of the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] He was surprised to find that the Government whose position on the Treasury Bench depended upon a majority mainly composed of Conservatives were ready at the end of the Session to force down the throats of their own followers a Bill of this kind without adequate discussion. The course which the Government had thought fit to adopt was an innovation upon the procedure of that House which had never been attempted before. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. T. R. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) said that he thought that the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House must by this time greatly regret the speech that he had delivered the other night in which he had compared the House of Commons to a music hall. In his view the comparison was a most degrading one. [*Ironical cheers and laughter.*] Hon. Members opposite might laugh, but he was satisfied that in their hearts they approved of his remark. The right hon. Gentleman in the course of his observations had made two important omissions. The right hon. Gentleman had said nothing about the Irish Land Bill and he had omitted to give any indication of the date when he expected the House would adjourn. No statement had been made with reference to the Measures which the Government intended to proceed with or when they expected that the Session would be brought to an end. Even assuming that the discussion upon the Irish Land Bill would be brought to an end that week there would only remain 12 days for the Government to complete their business in. How were they to get through the mass of business before them by that time. The present proposal if carried would enable the Government to compel the House to sit up all night as often as they pleased. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the object of the 12 o'clock rule was to meet the convenience of hon. Members, but its real object was to conduce to the better conduct of public business. It was quite impossible for the business to be properly conducted at a late hour in the morning. The right hon. Gentleman had, he thought, been unnecessarily hard with regard to private Bills. Of course it was clear that it was practically impossible for any private Member to get through highly-contentious Measures like the Benefices Bill, but there were a number of private Bills on the Order Paper which were practically non-contentious, or which were only objected to by a single individual. There was one Bill, in charge of his hon. Friend the Member for Mid Lanark, which he had been asked to support by Conservatives in Scotland, and he did not think his hon. Friend should be deprived of his last chance of getting that Bill through. There had been during the Session only two sittings of the House devoted to Scotch business—the consideration of the Scotch Rating Bill. That was not a very long Bill, but it had the longest title of any short Bill that he had had experience of. The reason for that was that it was really four Bills rolled into one. Many Scotch Members might be inclined to support one portion of it and not another, and English Members might take an interest in one part of it and not another. Surely Scotch Members had a claim, having received so little attention and time from the Government, that at any rate this Bill should be fully and fairly considered in Committee. The West Highland Railway Bill was of course a much smaller matter, but it involved a very important principle. He was strongly opposed to that Bill, and he thought they ought to have an opportunity of discussing it at a reasonable hour of the night. He would therefore ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he would give them an undertaking that, as regards that class of Bills which he had mentioned, beginning with the Conciliation Trades Disputes Bill, and ending with the Irish Rating Bill—Bills which he had acknowledged were of very considerable importance—their consideration should not be entered upon after 12 o'clock.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) called the attention of the House to the extreme importance of the step they were asked to take, which was practically the abrogation of the 12 o'clock Rule. Did the House desire that this Rule should be whittled away piece by piece? When the Rule was instituted, the House, by painful and practical experience, had found that prolonged sittings were injurious not only to the health but to the lives of Members of the House, and that the character of legislation and of Parliament suffered by these lengthened proceedings. He ventured to say that the country cared uncommonly little about the details of their Rules of Procedure, but the country liked to know what they were doing, and, as had been pointed out by the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean, they were now proposing to conduct their sittings practically *in camera.* [*Opposition cheers.*] They were proposing to rush important legislation through Parliament behind the back of the country. To suppose that discussions would be reported after midnight was to fly in the face of well-known facts. The early publication of the daily Press precluded late Debates from being adequately reported in their columns, and it was very well known that Debates carried on into the small hours of the morning did not generally get into print at all unless they led to discreditable scenes, in which case they were reproduced in the evening papers under the head of "Disorderly Proceedings," or "Disgraceful Scenes." [*Laughter.*] When the Rule was instituted a distinct assurance was given, acquiesced in by the Leaders on both sides of the House, that it should not be suspended except under special and exceptional circumstances, and it was indicated that those circumstances were when it was sought to bring a great Debate to a close. During the course of this Session there had been more frequent suspensions of this Rule than, he thought, had ever been known —[*Opposition cheers*]—and the Rule had been suspended for the purpose of enabling controversial Measures to be forced through Parliament by dint of sheer physical pressure. He thought the House had unwisely allowed the Report of Supply to be excepted, and to allow financial Bills to be excepted was open to grave abuse. The Measure embodying the financial proposals of the year was actually called upon and taken after midnight, and that, he thought, was a grave abuse of the Rule, in direct conflict with the assurances given to the House when the Rule was instituted. He knew that it was an open secret that some Members of the Government were not particularly in sympathy with the 12 o'clock Rule. Unless the House of Commons took very good care they would find that bit by bit attempts would be made practically to abolish this Rule. There was not a single argument which had been used that night by his right hon. Friend the Leader of the House which could not equally be applied to that object. They might be told that they ought to be wise in time and take precautions in February and March, when the Session was young. What the House had to consider was, did it or did it not intend to stand by the 12 o'clock Rule? If any one thing more than another could discredit the Government and the House of Commons, it was doing work in a slipshod fashion at hours when all decent people ought to be in bed. [*Laughter and Opposition cheers.*] He was not quarrelling with the arbitrary limitation of the Session. On the contrary, he believed that the country, if it meant anything by its recent electoral decision, meant that very little legislation should be obtruded on the notice of Parliament, that Departmental Ministers were to efface themselves for a time, and that Parliament was not to have its time occupied with the fruitless discussion of Bills that were ultimately to be abandoned, and that it ought not to have its energies exhausted by excessive attempts at legislation. The Leader of the Opposition made what seemed to him a very fair offer. He offered to cooperate with the Government in a friendly manner with a view to bringing the Session to a reasonably early close. He thought that the time was not passed when his right hon. Friend the Leader of the House might take the right hon. Gentleman at his word. In the old days Sessions were brought to a close not by gag and the guillotine, not by the abrogation of the Rules of the House, but by friendly conversations between the representatives of the various Parties in the House, and he thought that the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition had been acting in accordance with the old Parliamentary traditions when he signified his willingness to cooperate with the Government with a view to terminating the Session within a reasonable time. He hoped the Debate would not close without that offer being accepted. [" Hear, hear ! "]

MR. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) observed that, looking to the keen and impartial opposition that had been developed on the other side, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Manchester (Sir J. Fergusson) was somewhat premature and ill-informed when he declared that the Ministerial Party were going to stand by the right hon. Gentleman in regard to this Motion. [*Ironical cheers.*] With regard to the present position of Supply, he acknowledged that the Leader of the House had made a great concession to private Members in arranging to take Supply once a week, but the accompanying condition limiting Supply to a certain number of days would, he contended, militate against its successful working. Now, they had, according to the arrangement, five more days in Supply. One of these was already pledged to Ireland, one would be given to African affairs, one to Scotland, and then there was Class 5, about which not one word had been said up to the present time, including, though it did, the Foreign and Colonial and Consular Services. That would pretty well dispose, and more than dispose, of the five additional days in Supply. Yet, in all this not one word would be said about the President of the Board of Trade's Department, the Board of Agriculture, the Office of Works, or the Treasury, one of the most important Departments of this country. There would, he estimated, be 50 or 60 Votes about which there would be no possibility of saying a word. It was time to protest—and this was the last opportunity of doing so—about this extraordinary state of affairs. Then, with regard to the Bills, he assented that it was quite impossible, even if they sat till 2 or 3 o'clock every night, that the Bills the right hon. Gentleman had enumerated could receive anything like reasonable discussion if they were to be passed this year. It was clear that the right hon. Gentleman must either abandon some of the Bills he had named, or else he was going to ignore his pledge about the House rising towards the middle of August. He wished to know what the Government proposed to do with regard to the closure of Supply on the 23rd night.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK (London University) hoped that the Government would not press the University of London Bill. The present Charter provided that no change should be made without the consent of Convocation. The Bill, however, contained no such provision, and his constituents had done nothing to forfeit their right. They were not opposed to some changes which would bring the Senate into closer touch with the colleges, but in its present form the Bill was opposed by the great majority of the graduates. He trusted the Government would not use the suspension of the 12 o'clock Rule to force the Bill through. He admitted that it was for the general convenience of the House that the Rule should be suspended, so as to facilitate the winding up of the business of the Session. But this was new legislation, and had not yet even been introduced into the House of Commons. [" Hear, hear ! "] He very much regretted the announcement made by the

Leader of the House with reference to the Early Closing Bill. He regretted it, not of course on his own account, but on account of the thousands of their countrymen and countrywomen who were now working 14 hours a day. The Bill might be divided into two parts, one dealing with early closing generally, and the other with the question of a half-holiday. He believed that many of those who opposed the first portion would not only not oppose, but even support, the second; and if he could, by confining the Bill to this part, remove the opposition, or reduce it to very narrow limits, he hoped that his right hon. Friend would do what he could to permit the passage of the Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I hope the Debate will soon come to an end, but I now rise to reply to some observations which ought to be replied to. My right hon. Friend has asked me two questions with regard to two Bills in which he is interested—the London University Bill and the Shop Hours Bill. He has announced on his own part and on the part of the important University body which he represents that the London University Bill will necessarily require a certain amount of time for discussion; and if my right hon. Friend persists in that view it will be impossible for the Government to endeavour to pass the Measure into law during the course of the present Session. With regard to the Shop Hours Bill, I do not believe that any process of vivisection carried out on that Measure will reduce it to the condition of an absolutely uncontroversial Bill, and unless it can be done it would be impossible for me to depart in its favour from the general principle which I have laid down with regard to all private legislation. ["Hear, hear!"] With regard to the more general criticism made on the Motion, let me dismiss in the first place that part of our Debate which was concerned, not with the Motion before the House nor with the speech in which it was introduced, but with a speech delivered in another place to a different audience on Friday night. The right hon. Gentleman opposite seems to have passed a congenial Sunday in devising an answer to that speech—[*laughter*]—and I dare say the answer he has devised is a very good one, but it had little to do with the Motion before the House, and if I had been in his place I should have reserved it for one of those embarrassing moments when a public speech has to be made on a public platform and when no very congenial topic suggests itself. [*Laughter and cheers.*] So profoundly do I appear to have impressed hon. Gentlemen with those humble remarks of mine on Friday, that no fewer than two other Members have spent a good deal of their time in discussing, in commenting, in expanding, and in making general scholastic glosses on my answers. [*Laughter.*] I hope that the speech was worth all the trouble expended on it—[*laughter*]—but I confess that until I heard the Debate this evening I had no suspicion that this was the case. [*Laughter.*] The hon. Member for Kirkcaldy Burghs, and the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean both commented in a spirit of lugubrious prophecy upon the prospects of the Rule with regard to Supply. I am the last to deny that if it is the intention or the desire of a minority of the House to make that Rule unworkable it is easy for them to do so; and there are plenty of persons who think that so far as Government business is concerned we should get on better without it, and that the old plan of getting through Government business in the earlier part of the Session and reserving Supply to be huddled through after 12 o'clock in the middle or at the end of August is a plan which, however little it may suit private Members, or is suitable for the convenience of those who wish to discuss the policy of the Government, is, at all events, a very convenient plan for the Government. I hope that the moral we shall have to draw from this Session will not be that moral. The only remaining point which requires to be discussed is the fallacy which has run through every speech delivered against this Motion. It has been assumed by my right hon. Friend the Member for the Isle of Thanet, and assumed by most speakers on the other side of the House—it formed the whole basis and substance of the speech of the hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean—that the Government proposed to have a series of all-night sittings in order to drive controversial legislation through the House at a time when a report of our proceedings would be impossible. No such intention has been entertained by the Government, and I do not entertain an expectation that this will happen. Hon. Members have used the expression, "Taking power by this Motion to have an all-night sitting." We are not doing anything of the kind. ["Oh, oh!"] We have that power at the present moment, and therefore we cannot be taking it by this Motion. Have we not heard to-night complaints from hon. Members of the number of times the House has been asked to sit to a late hour? All those sittings were taken without this Rule.

SIR W. HARCOURT: You had a separate Motion for them.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Of course; but that Motion is carried without Debate. Those long night sittings are in the power of the Government already, and therefore the power is not given by this Motion. What this Motion does give is the power no doubt of having those all-night sittings without putting the House to the trouble of a Division; and what is much more material, and what was in the mind of the Government when they proposed the Resolution, was that it will enable them to go on for an hour or an hour and a half after 12 o'clock—perhaps not so much, very likely not so much—but at all events until it is no longer in the power of a single individual to prevent Progress from being made which the House desires and would like to see. I am asked: "What date will put an end to the Session?" The House must see that as there is a certain amount of business to be got through, we must either take more days or longer days. After all, the matter rests more in the hands of the Opposition than in the hands of the Government. As for our part, I shall do my best in this as in every other case to meet the general convenience of the House. [*Cheers.*] I am the last person who likes all-night sittings, and I should not like to deprive the country of the pleasure which I understand it derives from reading a full report of the speeches of hon. Gentlemen by carrying on our Debates to a very late hour.

MR. HENRY LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said the complaint which they made was that the right hon. Gentleman had not massacred a sufficient number of his innocents. With the programme which he had sketched they could not possibly rise in the middle of August unless they performed their duty in a very perfunctory manner. As far as he was concerned, he did not sympathise with those hon. Members who spoke of their health suffering from long sittings of the House. There was sitting opposite to him a right hon. Gentleman (Mr. James Lowther). They had been in the House together in years gone by and they had had some long sittings there, but he observed that his right hon. Friend seemed to bear his years exceedingly well. It was, therefore, a perfect delusion to suppose that their health would suffer by sitting up later at night. Another reason given was that they could not have their speeches reported, but he could assure hon. Members that the country would take that matter uncommonly cool. The country would bear up against the loss. It might be supposed from these remarks that he was going to vote for the Motion, but anyone who supposed that did not know the resources of the mind of the Opposition. [*Laughter.*] He was one of those who advocated regular hours. He did not think that this was a reasonable proposal; the right hon. Gentleman was putting too much into the Session; he was breaking too severely into the 12 o'clock Rule. He observed that the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House made a speech on Friday. He did not devote the whole of Sunday to reading that speech, but he did give part of his time because he thought it a very good speech. [*Cheers.*] The right hon. Gentleman had stated in his speech of last Friday that the Angel Gabriel could not carry on the business of the country with the present rules of the House. He (Mr. Labouchere) was not only of that opinion, but he thought the other Angel—the Opposition Angel—who was probably a more astute Parliamentarian—[*laughter*]—could not do so either. What they wished was that the right hon. Gentleman should propose a drastic reform of the Rules of Procedure. But the Members behind the right hon. Gentleman thought that the less legislation there was the better. [*Ministerial cries of* "Hear, hear!"]

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis), whose rising was received with Ministerial cries of "Divide," said he thought the hon. Member for Northampton had received the sympathy of the House under false pretences. He had foreshadowed longer days and more days, but he, Mr. Bowles had constantly known the hon. Member to leave the country in August for Homburg. [*Laughter.*]

MR. LABOUCHERE said he had spoken from a purely unselfish point of view. He was going away on the 5th or 6th of August, and he should, when abroad, read the reports of the sittings of the House with great pleasure. [*Laughter.*]

MR. GIBSON BOWLES continued his speech under continued interruption from his own side, the Opposition sometimes supporting him by cries of "Order." If, he said, the House did not wish to hear him, he would sit down. [*Loud Ministerial cheers and laughter.*] He objected to the waste of time involved in sitting up all night. He thought it a little hard, however great the Tory majority might be, that it should be impatient of listening to the expression of the views of a private Member in favour of the independence of the House. [*Cheers, and cries of* "Divide!"] There were times when the suspension of the 12 o'clock rule might be necessary, but never before had a general, final-to-the-end-of-the-Session suspension of the 12 o'clock rule been proposed in circumstances like these. [*Cries of* "Divide!"] When the present Leader of the Opposition proposed it there remained only nine days of the Session, but now, according to the First Lord of the Treasury himself, there remained 20 days. ["Hear, hear!"] Moreover, such a Motion had never been brought forward except as the last despairing resort of the Government proposing it. ["Hear, hear!" *and interruptions.*] Dealing with the question of Supply the hon. Gentleman, who spoke amid constant cries of "Divide!" and interruptions, was understood to contend that fewer Parliamentary days would be devoted to this subject under the right hon. Gentleman's arrangement than had been the average for many years past. He was continuing his observations when,

MR. WOOTTON ISAACSON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) moved, "That the Question be now put."

*MR. SPEAKER declined then to put that Question.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES concluded by expressing his intention of voting against the Motion.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) rose with great diffidence to make an appeal to the House. The importance of this question nobody could doubt, and he should be the last to be so foolish as to suggest that the Opposition were not within their right in discussing it adequately. But he ventured to submit that adequate discussion of the Motion had already been had. ["Hear, hear!"] He would point out that what was really at stake at that moment was the Irish Land Bill. All through the Session the Irish Members had waited for the occasion to arrive when a certain measure of time would be allotted for the consideration of a question which, by the admission of all parties, was one of most vital importance to the peasantry of Ireland. They had arrived almost at the end of the Session; a very small modicum of time, indeed, had been allotted to the discussion of the Land Bill, and the question whether it could pass or not depended not upon days, but almost upon hours. That being so, he appealed to Members of all Parties not unnecessarily to prolong discussion even on the important question now before them, bearing in mind that every hour they passed in its discussion was an hour eaten out of the time allotted to the discussion of the Irish Land Bill, and which would consequently diminish its chance of passing into law during the present Session, although he was sure no section of the House desired to defeat the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan, Mid) moved after the word "Session," to insert the words "except on Wednesdays," so that Government business should not be taken after half-past 5 o'clock on Wednesdays. The Leader of the House had stated that he desired to meet the convenience of Members of the House, and it was greatly to their convenience that they should, at any rate, be able to make their arrangements on Wednesdays throughout the whole of the Session as they were able to do now. It was more necessary to have Wednesday evenings free if they were to devote the small hours of the morning of every other Parliamentary day in the week to the discussion of Government business. He trusted, therefore, the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) seconded the Amendment.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY remarked that, as he had informed the House at the beginning of the Debate, the form of the Motion had been taken textually from that proposed by the right hon. Gentleman opposite in 1894, and in that Motion no mention was made of Wednesdays. He quite recognised the force of what the hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment had said, but it was never the intention of the Government to take the time of the House after half-past 5 on Wednesdays. Under these circumstances, he had no objection to accepting the Amendment, and he appealed to the House to come to a decision on the question before them.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton) moved at the end of the Question, to add the words—

> "and before one o'clock a.m. no dilatory Motion shall be moved except by a Minister of the Crown."

He said that a rule had sprung up, he believed, that after the House had suspended the Twelve o'clock rule the Chair regarded that as an intimation that no dilatory Motion should be moved after Twelve o'clock. The object of putting in these words in 1893 was to carry out the view of the right hon. Gentleman himself. If his proposal were adopted it would insure that there would no interference with the business of the Government before 1 o'clock, and after 1 o'clock hon. Members would be able to move the adjournment of the House. ["No, no!" *from below the Gangway on the Opposition side.*] He was speaking in the interest of the Opposition. If these words were not inserted the Opposition would not be in a position to make any such Motion, simply because it would be regarded as a dilatory Motion.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) asked the Leader of the House whether, in case of Amendments being made in the House of Lords in the Irish Land Bill, he would undertake that those Amendments should be considered at the beginning of business, and not at a late hour.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he had no doubt that, if important alterations were made in the Bill in another place, it would be necessary to bring them on when the House could discuss them properly. With regard to the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman, it appeared to him to have a double disadvantage. If the Resolution were carried in the form the right hon. Gentleman suggested, the Government would either have to substitute a 1 o'clock rule for the 12 o'clock rule, or have to encounter a wrangle every night at 1 o'clock. ["Hear, hear!"] On the other hand, he could well conceive circumstances in which it might be perfectly proper for an hon. Member to move the adjournment of the House before 1 o'clock. For this double reason he could not accept the right hon. Gentleman's suggestion, and he hoped it would not be pressed.

SIR W. HARCOURT said it had been laid down from the Chair, as the House was aware, that when the 12 o'clock rule was suspended the Chair would not entertain a Motion for adjournment after 12 o'clock and before 1 o'clock. After 1 o'clock, he maintained that hon. Members ought to have the power of moving the adjournment. It was for that express purpose that in 1893 Mr. Gladstone proposed the words suggested by his right hon. Friend. The right hon. Gentleman opposite insisted on them as necessary for the protection of the House against the abuse by the Government of the power given them by the suspension of the 12 o'clock rule. He thought the Government ought to do one of two things. They ought either to accept those words or to give the House some assurance that they did not mean to go beyond 1 o'clock. If the right hon. Gentleman, on behalf of the Government, would say that he did not intend to proceed with controversial Bills beyond 1 o'clock, he for one would accept that assurance. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. JAMES LOWTHER said he desired to ask the Speaker whether the ruling to which the right hon. Gentleman opposite had referred — namely, that dilatory Motions were not admissible after 12 o'clock—was guided by the fact that the House had made a specific order with regard to a particular Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER said that the ruling had no doubt been generally applied to the case of specific exempted Bills, but he thought he should feel it binding to the same extent when there was a general order of the kind proposed.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said that those on his side were equally anxious with hon. Gentlemen below the Gangway opposite to pass the Irish Land Bill, and they would be quite satisfied if they had assurance from the Government that it would not be proceeded with later than 1 o'clock.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY assured his hon. and gallant Friend that there was not the slightest intention to take what were called all-night sittings. If he understood the practice of the Chair it was that, even if this Resolution were passed in the form suggested by the right hon. Gentleman the late Secretary of State for India, the Chairman would probably hold that after one dilatory Motion had been made and rejected after 1 o'clock some interval, depending on the discretion of the Chair, should intervene before he allowed another dilatory Motion to be made by a private Member. He did not know whether he was right in his representation of the practice of the Chair.

*MR. SPEAKER was understood to say that the Chair would be guided by what it understood to be the motive of the House in passing the Motion. If the motive appeared to be to reserve to the Opposition the right to make successive Motions immediately after 1 o'clock the Chair would act accordingly. He thought that after the observations of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for W. Monmouthshire, the Amendment proposed by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton would, if adopted, carry that construction.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY thought, then, that the Government would not accept the words proposed, because it would be far simpler to say that 1 o'clock should be substituted for 12 o'clock.

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."—Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question, as amended, put:—

The House divided:—Ayes, 299; Noes, 106.—(Division List, No. 339.)

Ordered, That, for the remainder of the Session, except on Wednesdays, Government Business be not interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the Sittings of the House, and may be entered upon at any hour though opposed; and that at the conclusion of Government Business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put.

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

### LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

[Progress, 16th July.]

Motion made, and Question proposed (16th July), "That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."—(*First Lord of the Treasury.*)

Clause 4,—

AMENDMENT AS TO IMPROVEMENTS.

(1.) Where an application is made to the court to fix a fair rent for a holding, the court shall ascertain whether any improvements on the holding—

(*a*) if claimed by the tenant have been made wholly or partly by or at the cost of the tenant without his having been paid or otherwise compensated by the landlord; and

(*b*) if claimed by the landlord have been made wholly or partly by or at the cost of the landlord;

and shall record any improvements so made which they consider to be capable of accurate record, and that record shall be admissible in evidence on its mere production from the proper custody.

(2.) No rent shall be allowed or made payable in respect of an improvement made by the tenant on a holding, by reason only of the work constituting such improvement not being suitable to the holding.

(3.) In fixing the fair rent for a holding where it appears to the court that, after an allowance by way of interest has been made to the tenant on account of the present value of an improvement, such allowance falls short of the return equitably due to the tenant in respect of any benefit to the holding from such improvement, the court shall make such further allowance to, as having regard to the nature of the improvement and the interests of the landlord and tenant respectively, and considering all the circumstances, the court may deem just.

(4.) For the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent, a tenant shall not be deemed to have been paid or compensated for any improvement not coming within the provisions of any contract, except to the extent to which, in the opinion of the court, any money or money's worth has been given by the landlord in respect of the improvement.

(5.) A contract by a tenant not to claim on quitting his holding compensation for an improvement made by him, if money or money's worth was not given in respect of the entering into that contract, shall not authorise the allowance of any rent in respect of any improvement.

(6.) Section four of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, shall not authorise the allowance of any rent in respect of any improvement, provided that rent may be allowed in respect of an improvement made by the tenant—

(*a*) if made in pursuance of a contract for which money or money's worth was given; or

(*b*) if made *twenty years* before the passing of the said Act, and not being a permanent building or reclamation of waste land, and if the said section four would but for the passing of this Act have been applicable to the holding.

(7.) For the purpose of this section, money or money's worth shall be held to have been given where from all the circumstances of the case the court are of opinion that the rent was reduced or abated, or that the land was let to a particular tenant at a lower rent than he would otherwise have paid;

Provided that where the tenant of a holding had, before the passing of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, made improvements on a holding held by him under a tenancy existing at that passing, the court, in determining whether and to what extent money or money's worth has been given in respect of such improvements, shall take into consideration the time during which the tenant enjoyed the advantage of the improvements, the rent of the holding, and any benefit received by the tenant from his landlord in consideration, expressly or impliedly, of the improvements so made, but as regards improvements whenever made, neither the letting of the land on lease or otherwise, nor the mere enjoyment of any improvement, shall of itself, apart from other considerations, be held to be money or money's worth.

(8.) Sub-sections two and four of Section five of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, shall not have effect in the case of applications to fix a fair rent.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said the question was that Clause 4 stand part of of the Bill.

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): On a point of Order, Mr. Chairman. The Committee stands in rather a peculiar position. The question before the Committee is that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill, but you, Sir, pointed out on Thursday night last, that the Committee was in a position of difficulty, and that the regular way out of this difficulty would be for the First Lord of the Treasury to withdraw his Motion that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill. Then we should find ourselves face to face with Clause 4 with the Amendments to it. But now the First Lord of the Treasury has upon the Notice Paper a Motion to withdraw Clauses 4, 5, 13, 14, and 15, I think. I want to ask you, Sir, in what position the Committee stands in regard, first of all, to the question you have just put from the Chair; and, secondly, how the First Lord of the Treasury can make the Motion which stands in his name. Upon that Motion I shall submit two points of Order afterwards.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: The position in which the Committee stands at present is this. We are now resuming the Debate which was interrupted by the ordinary Rule last Thursday, and, therefore, I put the question to-day that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill. But, as the right hon. Gentleman has stated, I pointed out last Thursday that the position would be regularised if the Leader of the House would withdraw the Motion which he then made, and then the clause would come up for consideration. When that point is reached the Motion of the Leader of the House which stands first on the separate Paper would then come on in due course, and I could then deal with any subsequent point of Order which the right hon. Gentleman desired to raise.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: After what has fallen from you, Sir, I would under any circumstances withdraw the Motion which we were discussing on Thursday night. I beg, therefore, to ask leave of the Committee to withdraw my Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. MORLEY desired to submit two points of Order. In the first place he submitted that under the new Sessional Order the withdrawal of the clause was meant to be final and definite. In the next place, he urged that notice of the withdrawal should have been given two clear days before the clause was reached and discussed. The clause had been reached and discussed for some 20 minutes on Thursday.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: On the first point submitted by the right hon. Gentleman, I have to say that the form of words specially laid down in the new Order is, "That a certain clause or certain clauses shall cease to form part of the Bill," and the ordinary form of words after any Amendments have been disposed of is, "That the clause stand part of the Bill." I confess that I do not see myself any distinction of effect between these two forms of words. The ordinary practice of the House, when it desires that a clause be withdrawn, is that it is negatived. This is sometimes done in order that a similar clause may afterwards be brought up as a new clause. That is by no means a new form of procedure. Sometimes it has been discovered that an Amendment, which should have been inserted in an earlier part of a clause has not been inserted—that the clause does not carry out the intention of the Committee. Thereupon the clause is negatived in order that a corrected clause may be reintroduced as a new clause. I do not see that I can draw any distinction between the two forms of words to which I have referred. In these matters it appears to me that I ought to consider what is the intention of the House in negativing the clause. If a Committee negatived a clause because it desired to deal with it in an amended shape as a new clause, I think it would be in order to consider such revised clause when it comes up as a new clause. If, again, it should be the intention of the Committee to reject a clause because it does not approve the principle of the clause, then it would not be in order to reintroduce a clause to the same effect at a later period. With regard to the other point raised by the right hon. Gentleman, I do not read the Rule in the same way that he does. I read the Sessional Order in this way. When a Member in charge of a Bill in Committee desires to withdraw from a Bill any clause he may, after two days previous notice move, either at the commencement of public business at any sitting before such clause is reached to leave out such clause, or he may make the Motion when such clause comes on for consideration in Committee. There are two opportunities afforded an hon. Member after he has given two days' notice to deal with the clause or clauses. The first is at the commencement of public business—that is to say, after the termination of Questions. The hon. Member may then move that such clause cease to form part of the Bill, or he may make the same Motion in Committee when such clause or the first of such clauses comes on for consideration. That is the way I read the Rule, and upon that reading I shall hold that if the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury moves the Motion which stands in his name it will be in order for him to do so.

MR. J. MORLEY said he had no desire whatever to dispute the ruling of the Chairman, but he would suggest whether the word "consideration" did not refer to procedure on the Report stage.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: The word "consideration" does frequently bear the interpretation suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, but it often bears another meaning. In the Standing Order referring to the Closure, for instance, the words are "if a clause be then under consideration" these obviously apply to the Committee stage, and not to the Report stage only. I have considered the point suggested by the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. J. MORLEY said his only object in raising these points before the Speaker and the Chairman was that the matter was a very important one, and because this was the first time in which this important Resolution had been applied, and he thought it was very desirable that the whole question should be clearly understood. [" Hear, hear ! "]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said the right hon. Gentleman had only done his duty in raising a doubtful point for decision by the Chair. He would now move the Motion standing in his name—

> "That Clauses 4, 5, 13, 14, and 15 cease to form part of the Bill."

In doing so he wished merely to reiterate the statement that while Clause 4 was abandoned only to be brought up in another form the other clauses included in the Motion were to be permanently abandoned.

MR. EDWARD CARSON (Dublin University) suggested, as a point of Order, whether it would not be a more convenient course to take the clauses separately.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that the House had now seisin of the question. [" Hear, hear ! "]

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS : I have put the question as it stands upon the Paper. Two forms are sanctioned by the Rule—namely, that the said clause or clauses cease to form part of the Bill.

MR. J. MORLEY said he had no objection to offer to the withdrawal of Clauses 5, 13, 14, and 15, but Clause 4 stood in an entirely different position. Everybody knew that Clause 4 formed the most debateable part of the Bill. It affected the question of improvements, and whether they took the landlords' or the tenants' point of view the clause certainly formed the most disputable part of the Measure. It had long been a well-known practice in introducing Bills to place the disputable clause or clauses—the principle upon which the Bill was going to be framed—in the very forefront of the Measure. [" Hear, hear ! "] It could not be alleged that anything like obstruction had been offered to the 4th Clause when the Bill was before the House on Thursday, nor to any other part of it. The 3rd Clause, which dealt with sub-letting and was a very important clause, was disposed of in half an hour. He was, therefore, bound to ask what motive the Government could have in making this change —postponing all discussion on Clause 4, by means of its withdrawal, until the end of the Bill ? He knew the argument the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House would use—namely, that the clause in the Bill and the Amendments on the Paper were obscure and intricate, and that the Committee would not have the advantage of discussing the clause with all the provisions of the Bill in full view. On Thursday night he thought there might be something in that contention, but when he looked at the Bill and the Amendments he could not conceive a weaker foundation for such a course as the Government had taken in this case. As far as he could make out there were Amendments proposing six changes, mainly in the Improvement Clauses of the Bill, and none of those Amendments were of an intricate, obscure, or complex character. He contended that the issues raised by the proposed changes were made perfectly clear and intelligible by the language and terms of Amendments submitted, and there was no sufficient reason, therefore, to postpone the 4th Clause to the end of the Bill. For instance, the change to be proposed in regard to the 1st Sub-section, which referred to the question of fixing fair rents, was to be made in a very simple way—by striking out the sub-section as it stood, and inserting a perfectly clear sub-section in its place. Then there was the 3rd Sub-section, dealing with the vital question of whether any extra allowance was to be made to the tenant over and above the allowance by way of interest for his outlay. It was proposed to deal with the Amendment relating to that sub-section also in a very clear and simple way—namely, by omitting the sub-section. There was nothing obscure or difficult in that. Again, in the 6th Sub-section, the right hon. Gentleman proposed to substitute the phrase " valuable consideration " for that of " money or money's worth." Amendments of the simplest character would place the issue before the Committee and enable them to come to a decision upon it. The same kind of remark applied to the 7th Sub-section, which related to improvements. That was capable of one Amendment which was perfectly simple of comprehension. He was at a loss to know exactly why it was that the Government withdrew the clause. The reason advanced—namely, that the clause was put by the Amendments in such a state of confusion that the Committee would really not be able to make their way through the intricacies—was clearly not a solid or valid one, or one for which either of the two right hon. Gentlemen concerned in the Bill would seriously argue. His submission to the Government was that the issues raised in Clause 4, which, in his view, were vital to the worth of the Bill, ought to be raised now. In his opinion the worth of the Bill depended entirely upon the shape which the Improvement Clauses took. He asked the Committee to consider how they stood with the reforms compared with the Government compared with the reforms proposed by the Select Committee. The Statutory term was not to be abridged, and there were to be no provisions for making future tenants into tenant tenants. The only thing, apart from the Purchase Clauses, which made the Bill worth caring about, was a satisfactory form and shape being given to the Improvement Clauses. The one fact which was pressed upon the Committee more than any other was the state of uncertainty in which the law was left upon the great question how the increased letting value, over and above the interest allowed to the tenant for his outlay, was to be apportioned between the landlord and tenant. All the witnesses, including two learned Judges, urged that the matter should be put at rest. There was a sub-section in the Bill as introduced, dealing with the apportionment of the increased letting value. The Government were so sensible of its importance that it appeared in the separate draft, and now it was withdrawn. If that sub-section was withdrawn, if the Bill left the House without any attempt to deal with that crucial point, he would not care one straw whether the Bill were withdrawn or not. He was not very sanguine as to the improvement of the Purchase clauses, but, from his point of view, the Tenure Clauses were vital. He did not know what course hon. Members from Ireland would take, but his course was perfectly clear, and it was that unless they had some assurance from the Government that Clause 4 would be restored in something like the shape in which it originally stood, and in which it appeared in the first separate draft, he would cease to care whether the Bill became law or not, because if the new Amendments were adopted the Bill would have lost its value from the point of view of the tenants. These remarks were in order, because they supported his contention that they ought to take Clause 4 in its proper place. When they found what the attitude of the Government was upon that clause they would be able to decide whether it was worth while to try and amend the other parts of the Bill. He strenuously objected to this departure from the ordinary practice.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY hoped that whatever view the Committee might take as to the propriety of the course the Government had suggested, they would come to a decision at once and proceed with the discussion of the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] The right hon. Gentleman regarded not one clause but one sub-section as vital to the Bill. He was convinced that that was a view which no one acquainted with the Irish Land Question, either from the landlords' or tenants' side, would for a moment take. The right hon. Gentleman said it was the custom to put the contentious parts of a Bill first. That was a draftsman's practice, but there was no constitutional usage in the matter. The Government thought the clause would be better discussed if brought up in the form in which the Government desired. The right hon. Gentleman replied that the Amendments were so simple that any human being could understand them, and that it was not necessary to wait until the end of the Bill. If they proceeded with Clause 4, they would simply have to discuss Amendments to Amendments to Amendments, and they would be landed in a most complicated position. He trusted the Committee would feel that the Government conscientiously wished to make progress with the Bill, and that whether the course proposed was well advised or ill-advised it was to the interest of everybody they should come to an immediate decision on what after all was not a question of substance, but of procedure. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) objected to the postponement of Clause 4, owing principally to the shape of the proposed new clause. He and his hon. Friends were placed in a very extraordinary position by the Motion of the right hon. Gentleman. If they were to oppose the Motion it might be taken that they were opposed to the dropping of some of the most objectionable clauses of the Bill. But the proposal in Subsection 2 of Clause 15 was a most useful one, and if the present Motion were adopted that sub-section would be lost. He protested against the course proposed to be adopted by the Government with respect to Clause 4. There were many clauses in the Bill which were desired in Ireland. They were good clauses, inasmuch as they would benefit a limited number of tenants who had been excluded hitherto from the operation of the Land Acts. But there were other grievances needing remedy, and among the most important was the grievance respecting improvements. The public in Ireland were intensely interested in this question. The Government now proposed to drop Clause 4, after all the permutations and combinations to which it had been subjected, and to reintroduce it in an altered form at the end of the Bill. That course taken in connection with the language which the First Lord of the Treasury had used conveyed the impression that the Government had abandoned all hope of solving the improvements question. The right hon. Gentleman had intimated that it was only by general consent that a clause like Clause 4 could pass, and that if a large section of the House were opposed to it in its altered shape it could not become law. That was practically an invitation to the opponents of this legislation to show their hands and to oppose the clause.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that the position of the Government had been explained over and over again. The basis upon which they had acted from the first was that if the Bill was treated as controversial it could not be passed, but that they hoped it would not be opposed controversially.

MR. DILLON said that the law as it stood empowered a landlord to exact a large amount of rent on the value of the tenants improvements. Was it not absurd to say that if the Landlord Party would not agree to a clause remedying that grievance the clause would be dropped? (The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: "That is not what I said.") Undoubtedly the impression which would be caused by the action of the Government was that they intended to abandon the attempt to solve this great question during the present Session, and that by postponing Clause 4 until after the purchase clauses they hoped to carry a purchase scheme in which the landlords were interested, with the result that tenants would have to buy their own improvements in the land. Such a conclusion as that would cause a great amount of dissatisfaction. The Government would break their pledges if they did not legislate on the improvements question. The clause was now quite different from the original version, and the changes it had undergone had made it considerably worse. They were entitled to ask the Government for some declaration of their policy with regard to the whole question of improvements. Was the law to be left unchanged, or was it to be made worse? Were they threatened with this use of the great power they had now placed in the hands of the Government that at some hour late at night, when they were all tired out, Clause 4 might be driven through Committee in such shape that the tenant would be left worse than he was under the present law?

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) thought the Government, so far as Clause 4 was concerned, had taken the wisest course. He must say, however, he thought it deplorable that the Government should embark in Irish land legislation without having definitely fixed in their own mind the principles they were going to follow. He was one of those who were ready to support any Measure which would promote a reasonable settlement of this question in Ireland, if it be possible, but he thought the difficulty was largely increased by the oscillation of the Government, not in matters of detail, but in matters of principle, involving enormous issues. An hon. Gentleman opposite said he would vote to amend Clauses 5, 13, 14 and 15, but against omitting Clause 4. He was in favour of exactly the opposite course, because he thought the Clauses

5, 13 and 14 were necessary and useful clauses. He regretted that they were asked to give one vote on a whole heap of clauses, because, in his opinion, they were worthy of discussion separately.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.) asked what was to prevent hon. Gentlemen opposite who wished the law as laid down in "Adams *v.* Dunseath" to remain as it is, forming themselves into such a large section of the House as would lead the Government, in the words of the right hon. Gentleman, to abandon Clause 4? In discussing the remaining clauses the Committee were more or less groping in the dark. The Government were taking a course most unsatisfactory to the tenants. It would have been far better, in his judgment, to have reported progress even for a few hours, and for the Government to have come up to-morrow with Clause 4 in its proper shape, so that they could see what they were about.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) thought Clause 4 should be postponed until the other sections of the Bill were considered. He apprehended that, after the other portions of the Bill had been discussed, measures would be taken by the friends of the landlords on the other side the effect of which would be to throw overboard Clause 4 altogether. Should that be the result, it would be eminently unsatisfactory to the tenantry of Ireland. Clause 4, as it stood in the original Bill after six months' deliberation, and with the assistance of the Law Officers of the Crown, was considerably better and more favourable to the tenants than the Amendment which appeared now upon the Notice Paper.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY asked if it was in order to discuss the comparative merits of the Bill as originally introduced and the Amendments now on the Paper?

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I do not think that when the House passed this Order it was intended that the details of clauses should be gone into at any great length. On the other hand, it is open to hon. Members to refer to the clauses which are proposed to be postponed in order to state the reasons why they should desire them to be proceeded with in due order, but it would not be in order to go into detail on the various sub-sections.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL explained that he was simply contrasting the two clauses for the purpose of showing that the second Clause 4 was more unfavourable to the tenants than the clause as it originally stood, and in order that the position of the Government should be clearly ascertained before the country with regard to the question of improvements.

Clause 5,—

AMENDMENT OF 44 & 45 VICT. c. 49, SS. 5 & 8, AS TO RESUMPTION OF HOLDING BY LANDLORD.

(1.) A purpose having relation to the good of the holding or the estate for which a landlord can be authorised to resume a holding or any part thereof under Section 5 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, shall include the use of the land as accommodation land for a city or town.

(2.) Any enactment prohibiting the resumption of a holding or part thereof until after the expiration of the first statutory term in a tenancy shall apply only where the term began before the commencement of this Act.

Motion made, and Question, "That Clauses 4, 5, 13, 14 and 15 cease to form part of the Bill,"—(*First Lord of the Treasury*)—put, and agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN returned after the usual interval.

Clause 6,—

TURBARY AND OTHER PROFITS, EASEMENTS, AND PRIVILEGES.

Where, on an application to fix the fair rent for a holding, it is proved to the court that the tenant of the holding, by virtue of his tenancy, has, by the permission of the landlord, whether with or without payment, been accustomed to exercise any profit *a prendre*, easement, privilege of turbary, or other privilege over land belonging to the landlord, and it appears to be necessary for the reasonable enjoyment of the holding that he should not be deprived of what he has so exercised, the court may, after giving the landlord and tenant of the holding and any tenant of the land an opportunity of being heard, make an order for securing the profit, easement or privilege to the tenant of the holding, upon such terms and in such manner as the court think just, and such order shall be binding on all estates and interests in the said land.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved to omit the words "fix the fair rent for a holding," in order to insert instead thereof the words "the Court." When the Land Act of 1881 was introduced by Mr. Gladstone it contained no provision whatever to enable the landlord to interfere with the tenant's right of turbary. The provision to that effect which the Act contained was subsequently inserted by the landlords, and, following it up, he got an Amendment accepted to secure to the tenant the right—which he had at common law—to the use of turf necessary for his holding. But the moment the Act became law, the landlords—despite his Amendment—began a series of operations to deprive the tenants of their turf. The Government now proposed to remedy that defect in the Act of 1881, but their proposal only allowed a tenant, sought to be deprived of his turbary, the protection of the Land Court when he applied to the Land Court to have a fair rent fixed. That was to say that tenants whose turbary had been taken away from them then were without a remedy until the expiration of the present statutory term, and they came again to apply to have fair rents fixed. The question of turf was as important to the tenant as the question of clothing, or even of rent, and it was not sufficient to give the tenant the protection of the Court in such an important matter once in 15 years only, when the landlord could at any time assail the tenant's right to turbary by an application to the Court of Chancery for an injunction. He would be satisfied if the Government consented to allow the tenant, at any time he was assailed in the Common Law Courts, the protection of the Land Commission Court.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that the Amendment would practically allow the Land Court to secure to the tenant rights of turbary on holdings in regard to which no fair rents could be fixed at all.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: No.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: That may not be the intention of the hon. Member, but it is the interpretation of his Amendment.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I am quite willing to amend it.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that, as to the intention of the hon. Member, he admitted that there was a good deal to be said in favour of the Amendment; but if this right was given to all tenants the effect would be that tenants who had fair rents fixed already would be entitled to go into Court and have the whole circumstances of their holdings again inquired into in order practically to have a fair rent fixed on turbary. The evils were not so serious as to justify the Government taking the course suggested, which would undoubtedly lead to great litigation.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said the Government ought to adopt one of two courses. Where the landlord had initiated litigation in regard to turbary by an injunction in the Court of Chancery, the tenant should be allowed to repair to the Land Court for protection. Or, better still, injunctions in regard to turbary on holdings where fair rents were to be fixed should be tried, not in the Court of Chancery, but in the Land Commission Court. One or the other of those courses should be assented to by the Government if this clause was to be of any value.

Mr. CARSON said the far-reaching effect of the Amendment would be seen when he explained that it proposed to abolish the power of the Court of Chancery to issue injunctions when rights were infringed. That was the cool proposition brought forward with a view to remedy the defects of the Land Act of 1881. If the tenant had taken a holding to which there were turbary rights attached, or any other privilege, he was by this proposal entitled to effectually maintain as against his landlord any injunction. The cool proposition of the hon. and learned Member, for which he was sorry to hear the right hon. Gentleman say there was a good deal to be said, was, that if the landlord wished to withdraw that which had been granted as a mere matter of grace or favour, and not as a contract at all, and the tenant persisted in acting in such a way as if the favour were still to continue, the landlord was to have no power whatever of enforcing the rights upon his own property. If this was to be the line of concession, as seemed to be indicated, it would be better to say that from and after the passing of this Act the landlord in Ireland should have no authority whatever, not only in relation to the holding which was let to the tenant, but in relation to any other property of his at all. The hon. and learned Member would prefer that the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery in this matter should be transferred to the Land Commission Court, but if so, there was no reason why they should not abolish the Court of Chancery altogether.

Mr. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) said there was no form of legislation which had been so frequently abused in Ireland as this form of jurisdiction before the Court of Chancery. He ventured to say that if the right hon. Gentleman was desirous to avoid the expense of litigation, he would accept the suggestion of the hon. and learned Member for Louth. Application to the Land Court was a cheaper, readier, and better remedy for the landlord than was the Court of Chancery.

Colonel SAUNDERSON said that "an injunction before the Land Commission Court" seemed to be the euphemistic phrase for "stealing my turbary," or "cutting my turf." It astonished him that the right hon. Gentleman should have said that there was a great deal in this contention. He had given easements of different kinds to his tenants hundreds of times, but it was an extraordinary thing that the House of Commons should be asked to force the landlords by law absolutely and at once to surrender the property which always belonged to them, and for which the tenants had never paid anything at all.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR thought the Committee had wandered somewhat from the point. The Court would have to judge whether it was necessary that the privilege once given should be maintained. If an order had already been made by the Land Commission on fixing a fair rent, then any question arising in connection with the order would be heard and decided by the Land Court; but if the hon. and learned Member desired that the Land Court should be the Court to be appealed to for an order which had been made under this section, it appeared to him to be practically asking what the Government could not grant. He admitted that if it was desirable to decide these matters when application to fix a fair rent was made, there was something to be said for allowing the question to be decided at other times, but it appeared to him distinctly that the balance of argument was against it. He thought the hon. and learned Member would see that it might be a very serious matter if the tenant was entitled to go to Court on the question of turbary alone, as it might increase the business of the Land Commission very seriously, and it was on that ground that they could not consent to the Amendment. But as far as the principle of the Amendment was concerned it seemed to him that it was the same as that of the clause itself.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) said he understood his hon. Friend referred to the privileges a tenant enjoyed during the course of his statutory term, and which this section enabled the Court to give him — privileges which were only necessary for the reasonable enjoyment of the holding. When a landlord took a tenant into the Court of Chancery to prevent him from exercising the rights which were necessary for the enjoyment of the holding, it ought to be competent for the tenant to go to the Land Commission and ask that the original order should be amended so as to secure him those rights. The tenant required protection in respect of the privileges on his holding as well as of those outside. It had always been held in Ireland that where a tenant had a turf bog on his holding he had a right to cut turf for his own use, even where there was a clause in the lease reserving turbary. But the Court of Appeal had decided that a landlord might restrain the exercise of such a right, and that was a monstrous state of things. He hoped this question would be considered before Report. There was nothing revolutionary in the Amendment. The Act of 1891 contained an extraordinary clause enabling the Land Commission, on the mere application for purchase, to settle disputes of this kind.

Colonel WARING (Down, N.) said he would like to know the exact circumstances under which the landlord resisted the cutting of turf by the tenant. No reasonable landlord would raise that question, unless upon the ground that the turf was being cut so low that it would be impossible to drain the land afterwards for agricultural purposes. That was the invariable practice of tenants where they were uncontrolled. But this clause did not relate to turbary alone; it included any other privilege.

For instance, he allowed his tenants to pass through his yard to church on Sundays. If the clause was passed, that privilege would become a right.

Mr. T. M. HEALY would not press his Amendment, but he would bring it up in another form—either in the form of a new clause or on the Report stage. His Amendment simply provided for the time when the clause should be brought into operation. The hon. and learned Member for Dublin University said that they might as well bring in a law to abolish Irish landlordism. In 1881 he heard the same arguments, the same phrases, the same contentions raised by the present Lord Ashbourne, until in the end Mr. Gladstone got up and compared them to a jealous and haughty beauty. He hoped that the Government would not be deterred by the haughty and jealous beauty behind them from giving consideration to the arguments addressed to them. They knew that hon. Gentlemen opposite were to a large extent only play-acting, but the Irish Members who were fighting the tenants' case were dealing with realities. They addressed arguments to the Government in a reasonable spirit, and those who pretended to be supporters of the Government ought not to waste that most precious of the Government's commodities—its time.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. CARSON moved an Amendment providing that where, on an application to fix the fair rent for a holding, it is proved to the Court that the tenant of the holding "as appurtenant to" his tenancy, has, by the permission of the landlord, been accustomed to exercise the privilege of turbary or other easement, the Court may make an order securing the privilege to the tenant. The Amendment, he said, would show what was the difference between the Chief Secretary and himself and his hon. Friends. The law at present was that if a tenant had turf on his holding, or other easement, it would attach to him if the words he proposed were inserted. In the matter of contract no question would, of course, arise, but on the question of turbary, in addition to the rights the tenant would have under his contract, whether the turbary was on his holding or off his holding, it was attached to the tenancy as an appurtenance which he would retain under the Amendment. But the Bill provided that if the tenant had enjoyed anything by virtue of his holding a tenancy, it was to be included as a matter of right to the tenant apart altogether from the question of contract. The words "by virtue of his tenancy" were utterly unknown to the law as creating, or which could create, any rights whatever. If the tenant had a holding, and the landlord gave him anything as a matter of grace or mere privilege because he happened to be his tenant, that was something which was obtained by virtue of his holding. What the Government proposed to do was, not to preserve to the tenant the rights which he got under his contract, or the right which he got as an appurtenant to his holding, and as practically forming a right which was connected with the letting of the holding; but by this proposal it was proposed to turn what had been a matter of mere favour and grace on the part of the landlord into an absolute right on the part of the tenant. That was a wide, far-reaching matter, not as an Amendment of the Act of 1881, but as one of those matters which he had to protest against more than once throughout these Debates—namely, another transfer of a slice of the landlord's property to the tenant. The clause said that they were dealing with these favours and privileges whether there had been payment or not. Take this privilege of turbary as an example. A landlord had a bog upon which he was accustomed as a matter of favour to allot banks yearly to his tenants because they had not on their holdings any turbary of their own; and it was a convenience to the tenants that he should give them it. There were many estates in Ireland which were managed in that way. The not having these turf banks used so as to exhaust them prematurely on the holding was very often the reason why the landlord refused to let the tenant have the right. How were these turf banks managed? A system was laid down by the landlord by which the tenants were shifted from one place to another, and if a landlord found that a tenant acted unreasonably, or treated the turf bogs in a manner detrimental to the whole estate, he had the power—and he ought to have the power—of saying, "I shall not give you the right of turbary in this bog at all." They proposed under this Bill to take away that right from the landlords. If the tenant merely showed that he had been accustomed to get this turf for a number of years, all he would have to do would be to go to his landlord and say :—

> "You have made regulations, you have been my master in the past in the regulation of your turf, but in the future I will be your master, and it will be for me to insist upon getting any turbary, and it is for you to say where I am to take it. It is my right, however, absolutely to take it."

After this it would be absolutely impossible for any landlord to regulate the right of turbary on his estate. This Bill, and the Act of 1881, certainly gave the landlord any amount of opportunity to institute legal proceedings. He had been sometimes asked by his friends near him whether there was anything in the Bill in favour of the landlords, and he replied, "Yes ; they may have any amount of law." That was their only privilege from beginning to end of that Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] There was another point. If this clause stood, not only would it be impossible for a landlord to regulate his turbary, it would be utterly impossible for him to deal with his property under the Purchase Act for the purpose of sale to his tenants, because he would have no power over the regulation of the bogs. The landlord would have to part with the right of control over these bogs ; nothing would remain to him of the right he previously exercised. He did not agree with the Chief Secretary on this point, nor did the decisions of the Sub-Commissioners tend to make him agree with him. ["Hear, hear!"] But, be that as it might, here was granted an absolutely new right—a new suggestion made by a Unionist Government, to deprive the landlord of this portion of his property hitherto held by him. But the right as to turbary was only one put into the middle of the clause. There was the case of litter for cattle which might afterwards be used as manure. He knew a case in the county Galway where the landlord had allowed his tenant for years to go in and cut underwood for the convenience of his cattle, and afterwards to be used as manure.

That was reasonable enough to be granted by the landlord for the enjoyment of the holding, but under the Bill the tenant would be able to say :

> "What right have you to deprive me of this right? You must recollect I am the tenant, I am the one upon whom the Unionist Government has conferred these privileges."

Mr. CLANCY rose to order. Was the hon. and learned Member arguing his own Amendment or the clause ?

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS confessed that idea had occurred to him. He hoped the right hon. and learned Member would confine himself as much as possible to the Amendment.

Mr. CARSON said he should certainly do so. What he was endeavouring to show was the effect of keeping the words "by virtue of" in contradistinction to the words "appurtenant thereto." Take the case of an easement. He recollected a case in county Limerick where the landlord had allowed the tenant to drive his cattle up the avenue of the demesne as a short cut to his holding. The tenant went into the Court and had a fair rent fixed, and he not only continued to drive the cattle up the avenue, but on every opportunity he had, if the landlord happened to be driving down, he put him to all the inconvenience he possibly could. The law enabled the landlord to stop this interference with his rights, but if the present clause was carried what remedy would the landlord have ? The tenant would say he had an easement right to drive his cattle up the landlord's avenue, that the landlord could not say it was not necessary to the tenant's enjoyment of his holding, as he had given him this right for the last 10 or 15 years, and that the best proof that the landlord himself deemed it necessary within the words of the section would be that he had given the tenant this very permission. The Court would say that the easement must continue, and would make an order that for all future time the tenant was to drive his cattle up the landlord's avenue. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman thought that this was a matter which was likely to lead to more friendly personal relations as between landlords and tenants in Ireland. That was only one instance of an easement, but there were many others which he might suggest. But having granted the tenant the right to take from the landlord all these matters given by the latter's permission, as if that were not wide enough, and for fear that anything might be left to the landlords, the words were added "or other privilege;" so that, besides that of cutting turf, any other privilege the tenant could show he had had, not as appurtenant to his holding, but as a favour of his landlord and without payment, the Sub-Commissioners had jurisdiction over, and could attach it for all future time to his holding. So far as any turbary or other easement was upon the holding or appurtenant to it, or so far as any of these rights existed and could in any sense be looked upon as the property of the tenant, he would still have them; but what those in favour of this Amendment asked was that what was a voluntary favour on the part of the landlord should not be turned into a right for the tenant, and the landlord thus deprived of some of the solitary properties left to him under previous legislation. He begged to move the Amendment.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR remarked that his hon. and learned Friend had made a long speech upon an Amendment which, he observed, was the first of five, and he trusted he was not going to make an equally long speech on the other four. ["Hear, hear!"] It appeared to him that almost the whole of that speech might more properly have been delivered on an Amendment to leave out the clause altogether. ["Hear, hear!"] His right hon. Friend was wrong even in his criticism of the words "by virtue of." He said it was not a legal term, but Clause 17 of the Land Act of 1881, which dealt with the rights of turbary just as the present clause did, contained the very same expression. ["Hear, hear!"] The right hon. Gentleman had said that if the clause was limited to cases where the tenant had a legal right to these privileges, he was perfectly ready to concede that the Court might interpret that right in the manner laid down by the clause. But surely, if it was a legal right, the Court did that already. ["Hear, hear!"] There was not the slightest necessity to put anything to any Bill to secure the tenant a legal right which was already recognised by the Court. ["Hear, hear!"] It would therefore have been far more reasonable if the right hon. Gentleman had simply moved his Amendment to omit the clause altogether, rather than that he should endeavour by a series of small Amendments—upon every one of which he presumed he was going to deliver a speech—to alter it in such a way as to make it exactly identical with the law which at present existed. With regard to the clause generally it had been violently attacked by his right hon. Friend, but he had studiously avoided giving proper weight and emphasis to the words which the Government considered would prevent any injustice being done to the landlords. Those words laid it down that the Court was not to intervene unless it appeared to be essential for the reasonable enjoyment of the holding that the tenant should not be deprived of the privileges which it was necessary for him to exercise. He had heard a great many things said in depreciation of the Land Courts, but he had never heard any charge so ridiculous brought against them as that suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, that the mere fact that a tenant might have been allowed by the favour of the landlord to drive cattle up the landlord's avenue should be interpreted by the Court as a privilege necessary for the reasonable enjoyment of his holding. He could not conceive that the Courts could really be so unreasonable as to interpret the clause in that sense. ["Hear, hear!"] The clause only gave these powers to the Court after hearing all the parties concerned.

SIR ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD (Cambridge) rose to order. He wished to know whether the Committee were now discussing the clause or the Amendment.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said he had given a great deal of latitude to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dublin University, and he could hardly refuse the same indulgence to the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR, continuing, said that if any powers were to be given to the Land Commissioners at all, it appeared to him that this was one which should be given. The clause did not merely provide that these privileges should be given; but it provided that they should be given on such terms and in such manner as the Court might think just. Thus it was carefully secured that the Court should lay down the conditions on which these privileges were to be enjoyed in such a way that injustice would be done to none of the parties concerned. This was not a question of taking away any of the property of the landlords. The whole question at issue was this. Where it was found that certain privileges were necessary for the reasonable enjoyment by the tenant of his holding, they were to be treated practically as a part of his holding, on which the Court was to fix a fair rent on such terms and in such manner, having regard to the interests of all parties, as was just. ["Hear, hear!"].

*SIR J. COLOMB said that the words "by virtue of his tenancy" in Clause 17 of the Act of 1881 had reference to the exercise of a right. It appeared by the words of the clause that, if a privilege were given by a landlord to his tenant out of personal regard for the man, he would be able to insist on the right in the Court.

MR. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin Harbour) pointed out that these privileges and easements were granted by the landlord when he had the power of fixing the rent at whatever figure he pleased. The clause merely gave the Court the power of considering, in fixing the rent, whether these easements and privileges, from which he had probably extracted a profit, had been granted by the landlord.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) contended that to compel a man to give something at a price fixed by the Court was undoubtedly to take away his property. He would like to give the Committee an example known to himself of the difference between the words "by virtue of" and "appurtenant to." In his own neighbourhood there was a nobleman with a large estate which contained a bog, which undoubtedly belonged to him. He did not think there was another bog anywhere near. Out of consideration for his tenants the landlord only sold the turf to them. Surely that was not an act for which he should be punished by Act of Parliament. This Bill proposed that because he was good

*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*

enough to sell the turf only to his tenants, in future they should have the absolute and sole right of buying that turf from him. It was unquestionably a privilege the tenants had been enjoying by virtue of their holdings, and now this Bill, at the suggestion of a Unionist Government, actually proposed that this landlord should in future be deprived of his bog. What was the landlord to do when he was deprived of his bog?

MR. DENIS KILBRIDE (Galway, N.): Could you tell us where this particular bog is?

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON contended that if the words "by virtue of his tenancy" were retained, this privilege which the tenants had enjoyed would become a right; whereas if the words "appurtenant to" were substituted, they would not have that right.

MR. CARSON said, by the particular section to which the right hon. Gentleman referred—the 17th section of the Act of 1881—it was quite clear that it referred to something which was included in the holding as part of the contract. In the section he was dealing with his hon. Friend would find that it dealt only with matters on which the Sub-Commissioners fixed a fair rent. But he did not think it was a matter of words as between his right hon. Friend and himself. What he had attempted to point out was that if the words "pertain to" were used, the tenant would have the turf upon his holding, or which he had enjoyed, as a legal adjunct to the holding. What his right hon. Friend wished was to give him something, which he now enjoyed as a matter of grace, as a matter of right.

MR. FLYNN assured the hon. Member for Hackney that they on that side of the House had some experience of turbary. In his constituency a short time ago a considerable property was sold, in which the question of turbary entered very largely into consideration. In many parts of Ireland turf was as much a necessity of life as potatoes, or oats, or anything else.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CARSON moved, after the words "his tenancy has," to insert the words "at the date of the application." He said it was quite plain that, upon the construction of the section as it at present stood, if a tenant was able to show that at any time during the currency of his tenancy he had enjoyed, or was accustomed to enjoy by permission of his landlord, the various privileges to which he had referred on a previous Amendment, he would be able to make a case before the Commissioners. It would be manifestly unfair, in cases where that permission had ceased before the time the tenant had made his application to the Court, that a tenant should ask the Court to consider some antecedent state of circumstances under which the landlord had given him permission and had allowed him to exercise these wide rights. What he proposed by this Amendment was that the Commissioners should only have the power to deal with what were existng circumstances at the time when the application was made.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he quite admitted it would be extremely unreasonable, if the permission to enjoy these privileges had been dormant, as it might be, for a considerable number of years, to call it again into existence by this clause. But he submitted that this could not be done for the simple reason that, if it had not been enjoyed for a considerable number of years, nobody could claim that it was "reasonable enjoyment of the holding." After this clause was passed, a landlord, in order to prevent a tenant from having these privileges secured to him, might withdraw the permission, and the result might be that, in consequence of that permission being withdrawn, a tenant might be deprived altogether of the privileges which, if the Act had not passed, he would have continued to enjoy.

MR. CARSON asked if his right hon. Friend would accept the words "at the date of the passing of the Act," or "at the introduction of the Act."

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the difficulty in connection with that would be that they might have a fair rent fixed a considerable number of years hence, and were they then to go back to the commencement of this Act? It appeared to him that the whole of these matters must be left to the discretion of the Land Court.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON could hardly imagine that the Government would refuse such a simple Amendment as this. He ventured to think that the way in which the Chief Secretary was receiving Amendments moved from that side of the House was certainly not calculated to make the Bill go through. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he could not assent to the insertion of some form of words to meet the object in view—namely, that the peasant should only get those rights which he exercised at the date of the passing of the Act, or immediately before application was made.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CARSON moved to leave out the words "the permission of," and to insert instead thereof the words "contract with." He said he moved to omit the words by permission of the landlord, because this question again raised the objection they entertained—that the clause as it stood would turn into matters of right what had been only matters of permission hitherto. Then, if the words by contract, or under contract, with the landlord were inserted, everthing to which the tenant could be possibly entitled would be secured to him. Anything which a tenant could show that he had enjoyed for a large number of years —that was by contract, whether implied or expressed, and which was necessary for the exercise of his holding, would be secured to him by the Amendment. Surely it was not intended that the tenants should have as a matter of right all the privileges they now enjoyed from the landlord regardless of circumstances.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the points raised upon this Amendment had just been discussed, and the Government could not accept it.

COLONEL WARING asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he thought any landlord would continue to permit the privileges to be enjoyed by their tenants, if this clause was passed as it stood? No; they would withdraw them before the Bill came into operation, and would do so in their own defence. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] He confessed that he himself should be tempted to do so. The words of the clause were so comprehensive that unless some limitation was put to them, the result would be very unjust to a large number of landlords.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that if the landlords intended to take any such course as the hon. and gallant Member intimated—and he hoped not—and stuck to that intention, the fact would be the best possible defence of the clause that could be made. [" Hear, hear ! "]

Mr. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.) said that if the Amendment were adopted it would give the Land Commission Court power to set aside a right which the tenant enjoyed. [Mr. Carson: "Why ? "] Because, if there was a matter of contract, then the clause gave the Land Commission Court a discretionary power to deny that right. [" Hear, hear ! "]

Mr. CARSON said the hon. Member was under a misapprehension. If the matter was one of contract the Land Commission could not interfere with it.

Mr. M. McCARTAN (Down, S.) understood that under the Bill it would not be open to the hon. and gallant Member for North Down to withdraw a permission. The hon. and gallant Member said no reasonable landlord would wish to withdraw a permission he had given.

Colonel WARING : Certainly.

Mr. McCARTAN asked if the hon. and gallant Gentleman desired to become an unreasonable landlord ?

Colonel WARING : Certainly not.

Mr. McCARTAN was glad the hon. and gallant Gentleman had no intention of withdrawing a permission, because there were a good many tenants in North Down.

Colonel WARING : I care nothing about the tenants in North Down.

Mr. McCARTAN was glad the hon. and gallant Gentleman had given expression to that feeling. No doubt the tenants of North Down would take care of it.

*Colonel Waring.*

Amendment negatived.

Mr. CARSON moved to omit the words "whether with or without payment." He said he would not take up the time of the Committee by arguing the question at length. He only wished to focus the attention of the Committee on the fact that, although it was proposed to transfer the property of the landlord to the tenant, the landlord was not to receive a single sixpence.

Amendment negatived.

Colonel SAUNDERSON moved to omit the words "profit a prendre easement." He objected to the clause because it tended to put the relations of landlord and tenant on a cast-iron basis. In most cases, hitherto, those relations had been of a most friendly character. Landlords had allowed their tenants easements and privileges, but now they were to do so by law. The hon. Member for South Down could not see the difference between allowing a thing and being made to allow it. He might ask a man to drink, but he would not like to be forced to ask him. There was an immense difference between the two. He saw a great difference in the relations that would inevitably exist between landlord and tenant when the law stepped in and forced the landlord to do certain things. But, if he were a betting man, he would lay a great deal that in another place the words he proposed to omit would not be allowed to stand.

Mr. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) doubted whether the words proposed to be left out would benefit the tenant.

Mr. CARSON observed that, as the hon. Member was of opinion that the words would tell against the tenant, and the Irish Unionists were certain that they would tell against the landlord, the Government might satisfy both parties by leaving them out. What, he wanted to know, did the Chief Secretary think was going to be taken from the landlord under these words? What were the privileges which the tenant had been enjoying as matters of favour which were now to be converted into matters of right?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry) replied that there were profits a prendre which were enjoyed in various parts of Ireland, and without which holdings would be of little or no value. The most familiar example was the use of seawrack, and other examples were the privilege of cutting heather on the landlord's property and the privilege of digging for gravel. Why should not the tenants continue to enjoy these privileges, the Land Commission being empowered to impose just and reasonable terms?

Amendment negatived.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON moved to omit the words "or other privilege." He was anxious to know what were the other privileges over the landlord's property which were to be conceded. The tenant was to be allowed to quarry the ground for gravel, to drive cattle up and down the landlord's front avenue, to cut his heather, and probably to eat the grouse thereon. [*Laughter.*] The only remaining privilege to be conferred on the tenant that he could think of was the privilege of not paying any rent at all; or was the tenant to have the privilege of dining with his landlord? Was it that the landlord might find his tenant's bull wandering among his rhododendrons? [*Laughter.*] He asked merely in the character of a curious Irishman—[*ironical cheers and laughter*]—contemplating the future condition of his country. What were the "other privileges" which the gentlemen who had once been his tenants, and accustomed to pay rent, would enjoy when this Bill became law?

MR. CARSON pressed for an answer to the questions that had been raised. Every conceivable favour that could be granted to the tenant had been turned into a legal right. What other privilege had the Government in mind; or were they leaving it to the ingenuity of the Sub-Commissioners to invent another privilege? Perhaps they would even now say what they meant by their own Bill. It would be a consideration to some Irish landlords, and to some English landlords also, who had the prospect of this legislation being extended to them. [*Cheers.*] He heard a distinguished Irishman say that the Land Act of 1870 put the landlord and the tenant in the same bed, but that the Act of 1881 gave the tenant the liberty to kick the landlord out. [*Laughter.*] This Bill was not only kicking the landlord out, but, providing that if the landlord had been accustomed to pay 5s. a week for bed, he was to go on paying while the tenant kept the bed himself. [*Laughter.*]

MR. T. M. HEALY said that if the words "or other privilege" were cut out the clause would be deprived of its chief value, simply because of the difficulty of getting legal definitions. It was questionable whether all the privileges enumerated in the clause were not already enjoyed by the tenant as of right. Did the tenant require this Bill to give him the enjoyment of an easement? But there were such privileges as the taking of spring water.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: Irishmen do not drink spring water. [*Laughter.*]

MR. T. M. HEALY: Irish landlords drink very little of it, as is sometimes proved in this House. [*Laughter.*] The hon. and learned Member for Trinity College was simply practising on the House. He would not have dared to address the arguments he had used to any tribunal.

MR. CARSON: Not if the hon. and learned Member were the Judge. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*]

*SIR J. COLOMB said that he wished a distinct answer from Her Majesty's Government whether, in the case of demesne lands being surrounded by tenants' holdings, and that the landlord had been in the habit of permitting some of the tenants in time of drought to draw water from his well in his backyard, the tenants would, under the provisions of this Bill, be enabled to claim that permission as a right. It was most unfortunate that the Government would not answer the questions that were put to them from hon. Members sitting below the Gangway on the Unionist side of the House. [" Hear, hear ! "] In some cases, landlords having demesnes situated near the sea and including the foreshore, had permitted the women and children of their tenants every year during Lent to pick up cockles and mussels on the shore. Were the tenants now to have that permission to pick up cockles and mussels transferred into a right to do so ? He protested against the action of the Government in not giving answers to the questions that were put to them on these subjects, and leaving it to the Members of the Opposition to answer them. [" Hear, hear ! "]

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that the Government had no power to prevent hon. Members opposite from answering questions put by hon. Members below the Gangway. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down seemed to be greatly exercised in his mind on the subject of the right of a tenant in a time of drought to draw water from the landlord's demesne. Of course the tenant would have such a right if it were necessary to his enjoyment of his holding that he should do so, and he should be greatly surprised if any Irish landlord should refuse him permission to do so in time of drought. [" Hear, hear ! "] The Bill did not say that the tenant should have such a right without payment for the privilege.

*SIR J. COLOMB said that the words of the clause were " with or without payment." That left it open to the Court to convert the permission into an absolute right.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that the tenant was to have the right upon such terms as the Court might think fit. The Court might order the tenant to pay for the privilege. He thought, however, that it would be unjust and unreasonable if the landlord were to exact payment for water drawn from the demesne in time of drought. [" Hear, hear ! "] He thought that, where the holding was situated near the sea, it was only a reasonable enjoyment of their holding that tenants should be permitted to gather cockles and mussels upon the foreshore of their landlords. [" Hear ! "]

MR. CARSON said that he wished to protest against the action of the Government in pretending to answer questions which they did not desire to answer. The solution of the difficulty in which the Government were placed was to be found in the fact that the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Attorney General for Ireland had gone down to his constituency and declared that the Government were going to carry out the policy of Mr. Isaac Butt. The Government were now suffering from the consequences of the very extravagant speeches which the right hon. and learned Gentleman had delivered in the north of Ireland previous to the last General Election. The Government had provided for profits a pendre and easements, and the privilege of turbary, and they asked, and they had a right to know, what they meant by " or other privilege. " If the Attorney General for Ireland thought he had not put the matter in a sufficiently calm, quiet way, as a supporter of his own, might he humbly request — [*Nationalist laughter*]—that he would kindly tell him, as a matter of grace and favour—which they would not turn into a legal right—[*laughter*]—what was the meaning of the words " or other privilege." He only asked that before they passed these words in order that they might have some intimation what they meant.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that "other privilege" was a phrase common in drafting, and well understood. It was unreasonable to ask what privileges were covered by these words, as they did not know exactly.

MR. CARSON said that when the right hon. Gentleman admitted that he did not know what privileges he was transferring—a thing so perfectly and entirely what he expected—he accepted his explanation. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment negatived.

MR. KILBRIDE moved to omit the following words from the clause, to give the Government an opportunity of explaining what they meant:—

> "And it appears to be necessary for the reasonable enjoyment of the holding that he should not be deprived of what he has so exercised."

The Attorney General for Ireland had been telling them that he feared that the wording of the clause meant the striking off of another slice of the landlord's property. He himself feared that the retention of the words meant the striking off of another slice of the tenants' property, because, in many cases the rent was not made out of the holding, in consequence of the inferior qualities of the soil, but the holding largely consisted of bog, and the tenant had the right of cutting turf, not only for household use, but for sale. He wished to know whether, if the words were retained, it would be within the power of the Sub-Commissioners, in hearing these cases—probably a small number—to prohibit the cutting of turf for the purposes of sale.

MR. DILLON did not think that any injury could be inflicted on the landlords under the clause if the words proposed to be left out were omitted. On the other hand, if the words were unnecessary, they ought not to remain, because they were dangerous to the tenant, as there was no security that the Sub-Commissioners would give them their proper interpretation.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the words proposed to be left out were absolutely essential to the clause. They were safeguards for the landlord, and if they were not inserted some of the exaggerated fears of his hon. Friends behind him might possibly be realised. The Government could not, therefore, accept the Amendment.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CARSON moved, after the words "has so exercised," to insert the words

> "and that the interests of the landlord in portions of his estate other than the said holding will not be thereby injuriously affected."

If the Government were in any humour for accepting any Amendment at all, there would be some chance of carrying this one, because in its effect it would take care that in the transfer of the rights from landlord to tenant proposed by the clause the other portions of his property which, by this gracious goodwill of the Government were left to the landlord, should not be injuriously affected. What the Government had carried up to that by virtue of their majority would undoubtedly injure the landlord in relation to the holdings in regard to which those easements and privileges had been filched from him. But if the Government had still slumbering in their minds any idea of the rights of property, they would see that the interests of the landlord in the remnant of his property that was still left to him were not injuriously affected by those concessions to the tenants.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR, who was indistinctly heard, deprecated the language used by the right hon. and learned Member. He suggested that the Amendment might be modified.

MR. CARSON regretted if he had offended the right hon. Gentleman by any language which he had used. He admitted that he felt strongly in regard to the Bill, and it was not easy, as there were such a number of matters to go into, to make studied speeches. He maintained that, to take away from the landlord what had never as a matter of right belonged to the tenant, would injuriously affect not only the landlord but the tenant. He would be willing to move modifying words as an Amendment to his own Amendment.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND suggested that the original Amendment should first be withdrawn.

Mr. CARSON asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. CARSON moved to insert the following words after the word "exercised"—

"and that the interests of the landlord in portions of his estate on which the a prendre easement, turbary or privilege is to be exercised will not be thereby injuriously affected."

Amendment agreed to.

On the Question, "That the clause as amended stand part of the Bill,"

Colonel SAUNDERSON said this was one of the clauses which, as he had said on the Second Reading, would deplete the pockets of both landlords and tenants, and place the proceeds in those of the attorneys. That was a minor reason why he objected to this clause; the real objection he had to it was the way it dealt with turbary. The question of turbary was one that affected tenants all over Ireland. There were instances, he knew, in which landlords in Ireland derived profit from their farms, but as a general rule landlords had not claimed rent for their bogs. It was of vital importance in Ireland that bogs should be properly worked; if they were not properly worked and supervised, there was nothing which led to so much strife and confusion in Ireland. The two great causes of crime in Ireland were turf and whiskey. A large number of the murders and the criminal assaults that had taken place had been in many cases connected with the question of turf. The Government proposed by this clause to take away from the landlords in future the power of regulating the bogs that formerly belonged to them. One great object of the landlord in dealing with bogs in Ireland had been to prevent them from being improperly worked out. On the property of Lord O'Neill in the north of Ireland there was a bog of several thousands of acres. There were 4,000 bog tenants, and the rent derived was £1,100 a year. Now what would happen if this clause became law? Would the bog be kept open; would the roads and drains be made by the tenants? He was convinced that the real losers would be the tenants who worked these bogs for their benefit, and who now got their fuel for nothing or very near it. ["Hear, hear!"] He said that this clause would be injurious to the tenant. Of course it would be made out that he was opposing this clause on behalf of the landlords. He could assure the Committee that the passing of this clause would not affect the pockets of the landlords in the slightest degree. He must say that the man who would be would be the landlord who had always dealt generously with his tenants. There were some cases in his own neighbourhood to which he might refer in proof of this, but he did not wish to go into details. With regard to his own tenants, they fully enjoyed the privilege of turbary, but the clause removed from him the right of granting it to them. The right was absolutely removed. ["No!"] Certainly they did take away his right to watch over the bog.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Move an Amendment to guard your right, and we shall vote for it.

Colonel SAUNDERSON said his contention was that they were attempting to take from him that which was as much his property as his coat on his back. [*Cheers.*] Not only that, after taking it away from him they were going to give it to another person who had done nothing for it. One effect of this would be to strain the relations between landlord and tenant in Ireland, and another effect would be to interfere with and change the relations between landlord and tenant which had existed from time immemorial. His tenants had no grievance on this subject. They were quite willing to pay their 1s. a year, for they knew that the bog would be properly managed. Let them pass that clause, and they would have endless claims all over Ireland. The clause, as it stood, opened up the prospect of a long vista of endless litigation, turmoil, and confusion. He had no desire to injure the Bill, but he wanted it, if it was to pass, to be a success; and it was because he believed that the clause which altered the management of bogs in Ireland, and changed the relations on these points of easement which existed between landlord and tenant would be absolutely injurious to the prosperity and peace of that country that he opposed it, and asked the decision of the Committee upon it. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. T. M. HEALY asserted that the clause would leave the question of the management of bogs exactly where it was. He was anxious that no tenant should be allowed to waste or steal bog, and any Amendment the hon. and gallant Gentleman put down on the Report stage to prevent such a thing should have his hearty support.

MR. J. PINKERTON (Galway) remarked that, so far from landlords only charging 1s. a year for bog, they were in the habit of letting it at the rate of £1 per rood. He stood there as a tenant-farmer. When he paid his rent to his landlord he paid him for bog and other privileges. In spite of all the land laws that had been passed, in spite of all the talk about robbing the landlords of their last crumb, at the present moment the tenants of Ireland were on the verge of bankruptcy, and yet were paying more rent than any tenants in England or Scotland. This was simply play-acting on the part of the Member for Trinity College and his Friends. They were only trying to obstruct this Bill. The privilege the landlords exercised in Ireland was that of gathering where they had not strawed. There was not a landlord in County Down or County Antrim who had ever expended a solitary penny to benefit the county to which he belonged.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I do not think the remarks of the hon. Member are relevant to the question before the Committee.

MR. PINKERTON said that one thing he must say, and he thought he was perfectly within his rights in saying it. Nearly every county road had been largely created by the expenditure of the tenant's money.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: These remarks are really not relevant to the question.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR thought the Committee pretty well understood the arguments for and against the clause. His hon. and gallant Friend had given three general reasons why the clause should not be accepted, namely, that it would increase litigation, that it would alter the relations between landlord and tenant, and that it would injure the management of bogs. He would point out that the clause only dealt with one of these matters, and that would only arise when an application to fix a fair rent was made. He confessed that, after the legislation which had taken place since 1881, he was surprised at the objection which was taken that this small clause would damage the relations between landlord and tenant. As to the clause interfering with the management of bogs, he did not see why it should do anything of the kind. He reminded the Committee that, by Section 17 of the Act of 1881, the

Land Commission had already the right and the power to restrain tenants in this matter. His own belief was that, in regard to the right of taking turf, the clause would make no difference whatever. [" Hear, hear ! "]

*MR. LECKY (Dublin University), as a small landlord, but a representative of a Corporation which was the largest landowner in Ireland, desired to say a few words on the subject. There could be no doubt that the effect of this clause was to take away from the landlord, without his consent and by force of law, a number of valuable property rights which are at present indisputably his, and to do so, not because he had abused his power or acted ungenerously to his tenants, but simply because of his free will he had been allowing them to do things which he might have forbidden. In Irish agrarian legislation they were quite accustomed to such things, but it was somewhat remarkable that this was the proposal of a Unionist Government. [" Hear, hear ! "] No doubt the Government had the power to do it if they were determined to use their power. He did not know whether this would add to their popularity ; he was quite sure it would not add to their credit. [" Hear, hear ! "] Of one thing he was quite certain. It was that such methods of legislating about property would not be permanently confined to the other side of St. George's Channel. He objected to this legislation specially because it was directly calculated to kill that policy of purchase which the Unionist Party believed—he thought with good reason—to be the one solution of the Irish Land Question. From the beginning of recent Irish land legislation there had been two tendencies. One set of provisions were intended to induce tenants to buy their farms. Another set transferred to them so many of the property rights of the landlord that they made it better for them to be tenants than owners. Very naturally these conflicting policies failed. Every step which was taken in the former direction ; every step which transferred new landlord rights to the tenants ; every step which tended to unsettle contracts, and tamper with property, and raised hopes of further concession, was a step in opposition to the Unionist policy of purchase. For his part he believed that the purchase clauses were by far the most valuable in the Bill, and he hoped that whatever else was dropped, this at least would remain. Another consideration was that of deterioration. There was no part of Irish property which was more valuable than turbary, and there was none more easily deteriorated. Everyone who knew anything of land in Ireland knew that, if turbary was cut in a careless and improvident manner the powers of reproduction were destroyed, and the bog would become flooded with water, to the great disadvantage of the landlord and tenant alike. The great protection against this had been, and was, the supervision of the landlord, and it was that supervision that the Bill would take away. [" Hear, hear ! "]

Question put, "That Clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 194 ; Noes, 49.—(Division List, No. 340.)

Clause 7,—

### LETTINGS BY PERSONS NOT ABSOLUTE OWNERS.

The Land Law Acts shall apply and be deemed to have always applied in the case of tenancies created by a limited owner or by a mortgagor or mortgagee in possession, where no fine or premium was received, and the tenancies shall not be or be deemed to have been determined (except in the case of fraud or collusion or a letting at a gross undervalue) by the cesser of the interest or possession of such limited owner, mortgagor, or mortgagee, and the person entitled on such cesser to receive the rent of the holding shall stand in the relation of landlord to the tenant of the holding, and have the rights and be subject to the obligations of landlord accordingly.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL moved, after the words, " in the case of tenancies," to insert the words " created by a

Judge or Master of the High Court or the Lord Chancellor in a lunacy matter." There were estates which a mortgagee had brought into Court, and which were often under the management of a receiver for many years. Then there was the case of an owner being lunatic. In such cases the Court of Chancery frequently let the holdings from year to year, and it would be very hard upon a tenant who had held a yearly tenancy for years if he were unable to get a judicial rent fixed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that he must object to the Amendment for the reason that the clause was designed to meet the cases of holdings granted by limited owners, and that holdings created by the action of the Court were not contemplated by it. It would be most unjust if an owner who had been a lunatic, but had recovered his senses, should find that he had been deprived of his property for ever by the action of the Court of Chancery in granting these yearly tenancies.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said he thought the Court of Chancery was a court of equity, but it seemed to him that the Government wished it to be the means of rack-renting land. The sole object of the Amendment was to secure that land under the Court of Chancery should be let at a fair rent, like the other land of the country. There was no reason why the Court should be exempt from the operation of the Land Law Acts. The Amendment provided that ordinary agricultural land let to tenants should have a fair rent fixed in respect of it. It was a monstrous doctrine that the one department of Irish land in which this doctrine should be set up was the Court which was supposed to administer equity to all parties. There were a great many of those holdings. They were highly let, having been put up to competition by the Court in order that competition rents might be got for them; and it was those holdings that the Government, on mere technical grounds, proposed to exclude from the benefits of the Land Act.

MR. CARSON said the reason why those tenants were excluded from the Land Courts was because the lettings made by the Court were necessarily for a temporary purpose only. All tenants who were tenants at the time the estate was brought into Court had the right to have fair rents fixed. But where the Court had taken possession, for certain reasons, of the landlord's property—as in the case of a landlord becoming a lunatic, which was not a surprising thing in Ireland—[*laughter*]—and a Receiver was appointed, the Court would be utterly powerless to make a letting to a tenant without putting it out of its power to resume possession of the holding in the event of a sale of the estate. A more ridiculous notion of the way in which the Courts should exercise their powers could not be conceived. The Courts would be entirely paralysed.

MR. KNOX said that not one of the tenancies contemplated by the Amendment could have been in existence for less than 15 years, and that could not be regarded as a temporary letting. There was no reason why the tenant who obtained his interest from the mortgagee in possession 15 years ago should be admitted, while the tenant who obtained his interest from the Court in foreclosure proceedings should be excluded.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL moved to omit the words "where no fine or premium was received." What difference did it make in principle whether a fine or premium was or was not received? Why should the tenant suffer because, when he was taking out his lease or otherwise, he paid money to his landlord? That was rather a reason why he should be regarded with indulgence.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said the reason for those words was to prevent the limited owner from making a letting in prejudice of the remainder-man, and thus doing the latter the greatest possible injustice.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY asked why the tenant should be placed at a disadvantage.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY said what the words in question did was this—they punished the tenant because the limited owner had committed a fraud of which the tenant was perfectly ignorant.

Mr. CARSON pointed out that hitherto tenancies created by a tenant for life had only been binding so long as the tenant for life lived, and not upon those who came after, because they had no part in the creation of the tenancy. What was the reason these words were put in here? In order that he might not be induced by the obtaining of the fine to do anything to the detriment of the remainder-man. There was another reason. It was all very well to say that the rent was fixed, but the hon. Member forgot that the rent might be fixed during the tenure of the tenant for life, and the remainder-man might have no voice whatever in the fixing of the fair rent.

Mr. DILLON supported the Amendment.

Mr. T. HARRINGTON said that the only exception made here was in the case where a fine had been paid. All the other cases were cases that were to be admitted to the benefit of the Act. The tenant, in addition to the injustice of having to pay the fine to the limited owner, was now to be excluded from the benefit of the Act.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND said that hon. Members had lost sight of the injustice to the remainder-man. If the Amendment were adopted the remainder-man, when he came into possession, would be compelled to receive the tenancy created by the limited owner at the lower rent, which was the consequence of the transaction between the tenant and the limited owner. The remainder-man would have to take on the tenant at a rent much less than he would have been entitled to, probably, if no fine had been paid.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY said that the Land Commission had expressly held that a fine could not be taken into consideration in fixing the rent. The fair way of dealing with this matter was to put in a clause that a fine should not be taken into consideration in fixing a fair rent. It was a monstrous thing that, merely because a tenant had, in ignorance, paid a fine, it should be made a ground for excluding him from the benefit of the Act.

Mr. DILLON said there seemed to be a difference of opinion as to the law on this point, and could not the Government, therefore, say that on the Report stage they would take into consideration the eminently reasonable suggestion of the hon. Member for the City of Cork, and if the law was as he had stated, insert a special provision to the effect that where a fine had been paid it should not be taken into consideration?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND considered that where a limited owner took a fine, and the tenant had a rent fixed against the limited owner, it would be a great injustice that the fine should not be taken into consideration.

Mr. DILLON: Is it not a greater injustice to take the farm from him and deny him the right to have a fair rent fixed?

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL remarked that he was not at all convinced by any of the arguments he had heard from the right hon. Gentleman. Still, as he was perfectly aware what the result of a Division would be, when the Front Bench and hon. and right hon. Gentlemen below the Gangway happened to agree, he would not occupy the time of the Committee by taking a Division, but would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment. [*Cries of* "No!" *from the Irish Benches.*]

Amendment negatived.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR moved to add at the end of the clause :—

"(2) This section shall not apply to a tenancy in a holding which at the date of the letting was demesne land where the application of the Land Law Acts to the tenancy would materially diminish the value as a residence of the mansion house situate on and theretofore occupied with the demesne."

COLONEL SAUNDERSON would not have objected to the Amendment had it stopped at the words "demesne land," but he protested strongly against the remaining words, which were extremely unfair. He therefore moved to omit all the words after "land."

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY moved : "That the Chairman do report Progress and ask leave to sit again."

MR. T. M. HEALY protested. He and his Friends were willing to go on and finish the clause. [*Cheers.*]

Motion put, and agreed to.

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## MILITARY WORKS (MONEY).

Considered in Committee. [Progress, 15th July.]

"That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of any sums, not exceeding in the whole £4,775,000, for the execution of certain Military Works, and to authorise the Treasury to borrow by means of terminable annuities payable out of moneys to be provided by Parliament for Army Services, and if those moneys are insufficient, out of the Consolidated Fund, such sums as may be required for the purpose of providing money for the issue of the above-mentioned sum of £4,775,000 out of the Consolidated Fund or the repayment to that fund of all or any part of the sum so issued."—*(Mr. Hanbury.)*

Question again proposed.

DR. TANNER (Cork Co., Mid) objected to the matter, involving as it did more than £4,000,000, being taken at that late hour. The Chancellor of the Exchequer never attempted to sneak financial proposals through the House at early hours. Why should the hon. Gentleman try to do so? A sum of over £4,000,000 ought certainly to be asked for in the light of day. Why try and get the Resolution through when the light of the Press could not be thrown upon it, and in the absence of many of their colleagues? He trusted that what he had said would be provocative of some explanation from the hon. Gentleman.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) explained that this was merely a formal stage, and that formal stages were frequently taken early in the morning. The hon. Gentleman regarded the amount as large, but it was well he should recollect that this was merely a continuance Bill authorising two loans, one in 1888 and the other in 1890. It was considered undesirable to ask Parliament to authorise more than could be expended in the first case in three years, and, in the second case, in five years. This loan was repayable out of money provided in Committee of Supply. The progress of the loan would, therefore, be open to Parliamentary criticism in each succeeding year. It was in continuation of loans which had lapsed. Many works already begun would have to be left unfinished if the supplies at the disposal of the authorities were not renewed. That would not be economical, and if some of the works undertaken were not proceeded with the health of our troops might suffer. Other works were required for purposes of defence. When the Bill was introduced he would make a full statement if it was desirable.

MR. DILLON hoped the Government did not intend to take all the items on the Order Paper. No indication was given by the First Lord of the Treasury when he moved the suspension of the 12 o'clock Rule that any such course was contemplated. It was understood that they were to rise at a reasonable time after 12 o'clock, and now it was close upon 2 o'clock. The right hon. Gentleman having moved to report progress on the Land Bill on the ground that the House was probably exhausted, it was monstrous that they should be asked to settle down to the discussion of a fresh subject.

MR. T. M. HEALY observed that the Motion to report progress had unexpectedly interrupted them in their calm discussion of the Irish Land Bill. What was the Motion made for? In order that this new subject might be brought on, and that the expenditure of £4,700,000 for works might be sanctioned. As far as he could ascertain, not one penny of this money was to be spent in Ireland. The Government owed the Irish teachers £125,000, and this sum they had refused to pay. Whenever the sanction of that House was asked to the expenditure of money, he should raise this question of the arrears due to Ireland for education, and the refusal of the Government to liquidate them. The whole rental of Ireland was not £10,000,000; and by this proposal half that sum was to be voted away without a word of explanation. But if a landlord was to be deprived of 6s. 8d., the country was thrown almost into a state of revolution, and the Peers came down with uplifted hands to save the situation. Perhaps some statement of great gravity was to be made to justify this demand. Had the German Emperor sent another telegram, or had Li Hung Chang borne a warlike message from the Emperor of China?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY appealed to the House to allow this formal stage to be taken. It was asking too much of the House of Commons to require it to sit beyond a certain hour in connection with the Irish Land Bill, and the taking of this formal stage would not preclude further Debate or voting at an earlier hour, he hoped. It was not his intention to stop the proceedings of the Irish Land Bill for the purpose of introducing further controversial matter. His intention was to devote the evening to the Land Bill alone.

MR. DILLON said that, when the suspension of the 12 o'clock Rule was moved, the House was given to understand that a moderate use would be made of it; and it was not carrying out that understanding to enter on further business at 2 o'clock in the morning. There were 32 Orders on the Paper, and not a single word had been said as to the intentions of the Government.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: It is not my intention to take anything which is objected to.

MR. DILLON said that he objected to this proposal. It was not non-contentious business. If the House were fit to go on with business of that kind, it was fit to go on with the Irish Land Bill. Hon. Members would have to be down at the House again at three o'clock that afternoon, when they would have to submit to another prolonged Sitting. He begged to move to report progress.

MR. S. EVANS supported the Motion to report progress. It was unfair to ask the Committee to vote five millions of money at that hour of the night without its being possible for the Government to give any explanation of their reasons for asking for this large sum.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that in the circumstances he would not oppose the Motion for reporting progress.

Question, "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again," put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

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## UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

## CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) BILL.

Further Proceeding on consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

## LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

Third Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### SUPPLY [17TH JULY].

Resolution reported :—

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS II.

"That a sum, not exceeding £26,991, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Officers of the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant in Dublin and London, and Subordinate Departments."

Resolution agreed to.

### AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### FINANCE BILL.

Third Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### TRUCK BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

### COLLECTING SOCIETIES (RECOMMITTED) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (RECOMMITTED) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### RAILWAY ASSESSORS (SCOTLAND) SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ALDERSHOT AND FARNBOROUGH) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [19th May] on consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

### STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for Committee read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

### ELECTION PETITIONS BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] further adjourned till Thursday.

### TELEGRAPH MONEY BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### BERRIEW SCHOOL BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

### MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### POST OFFICE CONSOLIDATION BILL [H.L.].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

### BERRIEW SCHOOL BILL.

On the Motion that the Order for the Second Reading of this Bill be read and discharged, and the Bill withdrawn,

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester) appealed to the Government to allow the Bill to remain amongst the Orders of the Day, in the hope that it might pass before the termination of the Session. It was a very simple Bill. It was first brought in to remedy a mistake of the late Government.

*MR. SPEAKER: The noble Lord would not be in order in discussing the character of the Bill on this Motion.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE said a pledge was given by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Rotherham (Mr. Acland) that he would do his best to remedy the mistake, and he was sure the right hon. Gentleman would have done so had not his Government left Office. He should say that considering the Church had received no benefit from the present Government, the Government in this particular matter ought to retain the Bill amongst the Orders of the Day and enter into communication with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Rotherham, who he was sure would do his best to assist in passing the Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY thought his noble Friend was in error in supposing that the support of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Rotherham would secure the passing of the Bill without long discussion. The Government were the legatees of two Bills from the late Government—the Uganda Railway Bill and the Highland Light Railway Bill—and he did not suppose those Bills would go through without some discussion. There would also be discussion on this Bill, and he was afraid there was no chance of its being passed into law, even if were retained amongst the Orders of the Day.

Order read and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

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### TEACHERS' REGISTRATION BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

### WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY GUARANTEE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### LARCENY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

### BURGLARY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

### LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

### LABOURERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

### HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

### WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

### MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [15th May] further adjourned till To-morrow.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House, this day, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at a Quarter after Two o'clock.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Tuesday, 21st July 1896.*

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

### LLANELLY HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

### EDINBURGH GENERAL REGISTER HOUSE BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

### ORKNEY AND ZETLAND SMALL PIERS AND HARBOURS BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

### VEXATIOUS ACTIONS BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment, and to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

### PUBLIC OFFICES (SITE) BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The Orders made on Friday last discharged; and Bill committed forthwith. Reported without Amendment, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (PORTS) BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

### PARLIAMENTARY COSTS BILL [H.L.].

Read 3ª (according to Order), and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at Twenty minutes before Six o'clock to Thursday next, a quarter past Ten o'clock.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Tuesday, 21st July 1896.*

### CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS (LONDON).

Return [presented 20th July] to be printed.—[No. 306.]

### POOR RELIEF (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy ordered,

"Of statement of the amount expended for In-maintenance and Out-door relief in England and Wales during the half-year ended Lady-day 1896; and similar statement for the half-year ended Michaelmas 1896."—*(Mr. T. W. Russell.)*

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.—[No. 307.]

## *QUESTIONS.*

### SHIPOWNERS LIABILITY (EUROPEAN STATES).

SIR **EDWARD HILL** (Bristol, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that many European States do by law limit the responsibility of vessels under their flags, against which damages resulting from loss or accident are claimed, to the value of such vessels; and, whether, in such instances, all rights to recover such damages when ascertained are against the vessels only?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am aware that in many European States there is a law of the nature referred to by my hon. Friend, but the exact effect of the provisions of the several Statutes is a question of difficult legal construction as to which I am not prepared to express an authoritative opinion.

## OVERLAND RAILWAY TO CALCUTTA.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, as the distance intervening between the present terminus of the Indian railway system in the south of Afghanistan and that of the Russian railway system on the north is only about 700 miles, and Russia is now making a further extension of the Transcaspian line in the direction of Herat, Her Majesty's Government will consider the expediency of opening negotiations with the Afghan and the Russian Governments for the construction of a line through Candahar and Herat connecting the two systems, with a view to the completion of an overland railway to Calcutta?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. GEORGE CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): It would be quite premature at this moment to consider the expediency of entering into negotiations for the construction of a line of railway beyond the frontiers of India to join a line that is either not yet commenced or only in the earliest stages of progress.

## POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES (IRELAND).

MR. W. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Post Office authorities will extend telegraphic communication from Recess, Connemara, to Carna, Connemara, in view of the fact that a steamer calls there once a week from Galway, and that serious inconvenience frequently arises when through any cause the steamer fails to come on the appointed day; and also, in view of the fact that telegraphic communication to that district is most important and essential for the proper development of its fishing industry?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The Postmaster General will be happy to make further inquiry on the subject of the extension of the telegraph system to Carna, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

MR. O'MALLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Post Office authorities will re-consider the question of establishing a delivery of letters to Carna, Connemara, county Galway, on Sundays?

MR. HANBURY: As was explained to the hon. Member a few months ago, the post to Carna on week days involves an expenditure in excess of the revenue available, and further expenditure for a Sunday service would not therefore be warranted. The circumstances being unaltered, the Postmaster General regrets that he is unable to meet the wishes of the hon. Member.

MR. J. C. ENGLEDOW (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain why parcels sent by post from Ireland, and arriving by the mail train due at Euston at 6.15 a.m., are not delivered in the north-western postal district of London before 5 p.m.; and if he will take steps to expedite their delivery?

MR. HANBURY: To avoid delay to the letter mails, parcels from Ireland are not (except on Sunday nights) sent by the night mail *viâ* Kingstown due at Euston at 6.15 a.m., as the hon. Member appears to assume. The route for parcels is *viâ* North Wall, and the train from Holyhead which brings the parcels from the North Wall boat is due at Euston at 6.50 a.m. The delivery of Irish parcels by this mail commences in the north-western town district about 11 a.m., and is completed about mid-day. Even in the remotest parts of the north-western district, such as Hendon and Mill Hill, the delivery should take place before 3 p.m.

MR. JASPER TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that grave public inconvenience has been caused by the action of the postal authorities in discontinuing the night mail from Dromod to Mohill, and thus delaying letters for days from residents in Sligo and Roscommon to residents in South Leitrim; and, whether he will recommend that the night mail be resumed in the same way as existed for the last 20 years?

MR. HANBURY: The night mail from Dromod to Mohill has not been discontinued, but under a recent alteration it appears that letters from several neighbouring places which formerly fell into the morning delivery at Mohill are not now delivered until mid-day. Directions have been given which will have the effect of restoring the communication which has been temporarily disturbed.

MR. P. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that night mails between Dublin and Wexford are carried by an ordinary goods train which leaves Dublin at 8 o'clock in the evening, and very frequently does not arrive in Wexford until 7 or 8 o'clock next morning, delaying the rural postmen from an hour to two hours; and, whether the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Company are receiving any subsidy for carrying the night mails beyond the ordinary fare for parcels; and, if not, whether he will reconsider the desirability of making arrangements with the Railway Company for carrying the night mails, and provide a regular mail service in future?

MR. HANBURY: The night mail from Dublin to Wexford is carried by a goods train which leaves Dublin at 8 p.m., and is due at Wexford at 5 a.m. On one occasion only since the 1st June has the arrival at Wexford been so late as 7 a.m., but there has been much irregularity in the working of the train and the rural postmen have consequently been late in starting upon their rounds. The Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Company receive under their contract with the post office an annual payment of substantial amount which covers all the services they perform. No particular portion of this payment is earmarked to the night mail, but there is no reason for considering the company to be insufficiently remunerated. The Department is in correspondence with the company with a view to insuring a more punctual observance of the contract obligations.

## FOREIGN VESSELS IN BRITISH PORTS.

MR. C. W. CAYZER (Barrow-in-Furness): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the officials of the Board of Trade report to him all cases of Foreign vessels arriving at British ports which they consider overladen or not laden in accordance with the regulations applied to British vessels; if he can state how many Foreign ships have been thus reported, and whether he will grant a return giving the particulars of each case for the last three years; and whether, if these returns have not been reported by the officials of the Board of Trade in the past, he will give instructions to have them reported for the future?

MR. RITCHIE: Neither the Board of Trade nor its officers have any authority to interefere with foreign vessels arriving overladen at ports in the United Kingdom, except in the case of deck loads of timber in winter.

## LIGHT RAILWAYS (IRELAND) BILL.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the resolution recently passed by the Scariff Board of Guardians, in which they expressed their satisfaction that the Irish Light Railways Bill is before Parliament, but urged that the restriction of free grants for the whole cost of construction to congested districts would work unjustly, as it would exclude districts which, though not classed among the congested districts, are equally unable to assist themselves, and suggested that full discretion should be left to the Lord Lieutenant and the Board of Works as to the several areas and the extent of aid to be given in every case considered worthy of financial assistance; and, whether the Government can act in accordance with the recommendations of this resolution?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I have received a copy of the resolution in question. The provision was inserted in the Bill after full consideration, and I cannot at present see my way to alter it.

### MAHARAJA OF JHALLAWAR.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, whether he will grant a public Inquiry into the case of the Maharaja of Jhallawar, in such a form that the Maharaja may have a full opportunity of making his defence; and, whether this Inquiry will include an examination of the charges made by him against the Political Resident?

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): The decision of the Indian Government, which I confirmed in a Dispatch of the 1st of May, is final, and I have no intention of re-opening this case.

### INLAND PATTERN POST.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain why it is that a pattern or sample sent from one point to another within the United Kingdom is required to have the name, trade, and address of the sender printed or conspicuously stamped (not written) on the outside of the wrapper or label, on pain of a fine twice the deficient postage at the letter rate, whereas in the case of a pattern or sample sent to, or received from, a foreign country in the Postal Union it is not demanded or necessary that the trade of the sender should be printed, stamped, or written upon the wrapper or label, and the address and other particulars allowed may be in writing; and, whether he will modify in these respects the inland pattern post regulations, so as to place British traders on the same footing as their foreign competitors?

Mr. HANBURY: The object of the inland regulation to which the hon. Member refers, is to insure the sample post being used only by persons engaged in trade. In the case of foreign sample packets, it could not be adopted without the concurrence of the other countries belonging to the Postal Union. The British trader is really not hampered by this difference of practice, as all he has to do is to buy an indiarubber stamp to use, which probably gives him much less trouble than writing his name and other particulars on every parcel.

### VESTRY ELECTION (ST. MARY, NEWINGTON).

Mr. JAMES BAILEY (Newington, Walworth): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to what occurred at the last Vestry Election of the St. Peter's Ward of the parish of St. Mary, Newington, when the Returning Officer permitted some of the candidates and their polling agents to act as counting clerks in taking the poll; whether he will ascertain the legal effect of these proceedings; and, supposing that such persons failed to make the declaration of secrecy required by the Ballot Act, if the whole election has been thereby rendered void; and whether, in any case, the employment of a candidate or his polling agent in counting the votes at the poll for his own election is such an infringement of the provisions of the the Local Government Act, 1894, as to invalidate the election?

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Henry Chaplin, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I have made inquiry of the Returning Officer, and I gather from his communication that two of the candidates at the election in question, and another person, all of whom had been appointed as counting agents, did take part in the counting of the votes. I am informed that these three persons took the declaration of secrecy required by the Ballot Act, and that the two who were candidates were not successful in their candidature. The Local Government Board have no authority whatever to determine a question as to the legality of the election of a vestryman. When it is desired to obtain a decision with regard to the validity of an election, an Election Petition should be presented, within the prescribed time, in order that the question may be determined by the Election Court. It is not a matter in which the Board can in any way intervene or express an opinion.

## AREMBERG CHUTE ESTATE (COUNTY KERRY).

MR. JAMES ROCHE (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) why the sale to the tenants of the Aremberg Chute Estate, Castleisland, Kerry, was not carried out when their offer of £7,502, including tithe and head rent, was accepted by the Land Commission, and the tenants had for some time paid the statutory rate of interest, and consequently regarded themselves as the purchasers; (2) whether he is aware that a sale for a sum of £6,083 for the same property has lately been made to another party, whilst all the tenants are still desirous to complete their contract of purchase; and (3) whether, pending the completion of this last sale, he will cause inquiry to be made into the matter with a view to having the former sale carried out?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It is not correct to say that the offer of the tenants on this property, to which reference is made, was accepted by the Land Commission. It is the fact, however, that negotiations with a view to purchase were commenced in 1892, but subsequently fell through in consequence of the failure of the parties to comply with certain requisitions issued by the Commission. I believe the property has since been sold to another party, as stated in the second paragraph, but I have no official information as to the amount for which it has been sold.

MR. DENIS KILBRIDE (Galway, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say what the failure consisted of?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I don't think I could state off-hand. If the hon. Gentleman will put down a Question, I will endeavour to answer.

MR. KILBRIDE: Did it not consist in the fact that one of the tenants did not come in at the time the other tenants did so? Later on he did come in and did consent.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I rather think that refers to a later date.

MR. MICHAEL FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the tenants in question made their offers as early as November 1891; that they have been paying rent on the basis of those offers, and that the rents are being accepted? ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I believe, Sir, the offers were made; I am not aware of the fact as regards the payments made by the tenants since that time.

## CONSTABULARY (BELFAST).

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with regard to the fact that within the current year ten sergeants of constabulary from the depôt, and four from counties, have been drafted for service into the Belfast force, could he state how many constables of over 15 years' service are now in the Belfast force still without promotion, and how many of these have passed their qualifying examination for promotion; and will he instruct the Inspector General to withdraw the 14 sergeants referred to, in order to make room for a similar number of constables in the Belfast force qualified for advancement?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: During the current year two sergeants and one acting sergeant were drafted into Belfast, and in their places two acting sergeants were moved out of Belfast, and another sergeant will be moved soon. Further, two constables have been specially promoted and transferred from Belfast during this month, and they will not be replaced in Belfast by two sergeants or acting sergeants. There are 193 constables of over 15 years' service in Belfast without promotion. Of these, 101 have passed the qualifying examination; but only 65 of them have been recommended by their officers for advancement. The Inspector General cannot, in the interests of the service, transfer a number of sergeants or acting sergeants from Belfast without replacing them by a like number of the same rank taken from the counties to which the former are transferred; but he is quite prepared to transfer, at public expense, on their application, according as opportunity may offer, any good senior constables who are well recommended for promotion to any county in Ireland that they may select, in which they have no connections, and where they consider their chances of promotion would be better than in Belfast.

### REGENT'S CANAL.

MR. M. M. BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that, owing to insufficient fencing, upward of 2,300 feet of the frontage of the Regent's Canal is in an entirely unprotected state; that in the first 8 months of 1895 there had been 31 cases of drowning and 43 persons rescued from drowning; and that within the last seven weeks there had been 15 similar accidents within the Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, and other eastern boundaries of the canal; and, if this be so, whether any measures will be adopted, without further delay, to sufficiently fence the canal so as to prevent the occurrence of such accidents?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): The number of accidents stated in the question is, I am informed, unhappily correct. As I explained, however, on a previous occasion, the canal banks are private property, and I have no power to compel the company to take measures to prevent the occurrence of such accidents.

### COUNTY CARLOW GRAND JURY.

MR. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether he will ascertain what sum the costs came to which were allowed by the County Carlow Grand Jury in the case of the malicious burning of a cabin in the lands of Lieutenant Colonel John James Hardy Eustace; (2) whether the Grand Jury approved of the actual amount before it was included in the rates and collected from the ratepayers in the special area over which the amount was levied; and (3) if the costs were taxed or checked before being passed; and, if so, by whom?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The costs allowed in this case amounted to £1 10s. The reply to the second paragraph is in the affirmative, and to the last paragraph in the negative.

MR. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland if he will state upon what legal authority the county Carlow Grand Jury on the 13th instant passed a presentment for £12 to Mr. Charles H. Thorpe, solicitor, for preparing and registering the bonds of six barony constables appointed at the previous assizes, and pay £24 a year to that gentleman for that service; and whether the cost of preparing these bonds should be borne by the barony constables themselves; under what authority and by whose instructions Mr. Thorpe performed this work; and whether Mr. Thorpe also charges the six barony constables £1 each for these bonds, in addition to the amount paid by the Grand Jury?

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I have received a telegram from the Secretary to the Grand Jury which does not contain sufficient information to enable me to answer the Question. I have called for a further report, when I have received it I shall be happy to answer the hon. Member; but I may perhaps refer him to the answers given to several questions similar to the present to the effect that the Executive is not responsible for and has no control over the Grand Jury in matters such as these, and that if any ratepayer contest the legality of a presentment, his best way is to traverse it before the Judge of Assizes and have its validity determined.

### RIFLE RANGE (COUNTY DOWN).

MR. M. McCARTAN (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now say if any inspectors were recently sent to inspect the ground of the proposed new rifle range at Ballykinlar, near Dundrum, county Down; whether he will also state the date of the last inspection, the nature of their Report, and what is intended to be done in the matter; and, if any inquiry has been made as to the value of the lands required and the amount to be paid the tenants, and with what result?

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Inquiries on the subject referred to in the Question are at present taking place, but I am not in a position to make any definite statement as to the result.

### RENT REDUCTIONS (ULSTER).

MR. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the generous reductions in rent alleged to have been given by Ulster landlords in flax-growing districts, whether he is now in a position to say were such reductions given in respect of last year's rent upon any, and, if so, how many, of the large estates in the counties of Down and Antrim, where flax is largely grown?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The matters referred to in this Question have already been dealt with by me in answer to previous questions of the hon. Member, to the replies to which I have nothing to add. It has been the invariable custom to withhold the description of particular estates on which rent abatements have been granted or refused, and from this custom I cannot depart. I may add that I have gone personally into the matter, and am satisfied of the correctness of the previous replies to the hon. Gentleman's questions.

MR. McCARTAN: I did not ask for the names of particular estates. I only asked whether there were any estates.

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: If the hon. Gentleman will put a Question down again, I will try to answer it.

## BELFAST WORKHOUSE (DEATH OF INMATE).

MR. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the proceedings at an inquest, held in Belfast Workhouse into the death of an inmate named Eliza Jane Hanna, in which it appeared that the deceased had been a patient in Belfast Asylum; (2) will he state when and under what statute she was transferred to Belfast Workhouse; (3) whether she belonged to the Belfast Union; and, if not, under what authority did the Guardians of the Poor there admit her and keep her confined in Belfast Workhouse at the expense of the ratepayers of Belfast; (4) whether Belfast Workhouse has ever been certified by the Inspectors of Lunatics or the Board of Control as a suitable and proper place for the reception of the insane; (5) whether he is aware that the doctor of the workhouse swore at the Inquiry that the patient was transferred without any consultation between the doctors of the two institutions, and that the recreation yard at the workhouse was so small and usually so noisy that it had been described by one of the inspectors as a pandemonium; and (6), whether he will have full inquiry made into the matter?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: My attention has been drawn by the Question to the proceedings at the inquest referred to in the first paragraph. The clerk of the union states that the woman was received into the workhouse in December 1893, as a presumably destitute person, in exchange for another person sent from the workhouse to the lunatic asylum. The woman did not belong to the Belfast Union. The reply to the fourth paragraph is in the negative; no such certificate is required. As to the fifth paragraph, no consultation is held regarding the condition of patients between the medical officers of the two institutions. I understand the medical officer of the workhouse stated at the inquest that he had heard that an inspector of lunatics had described the recreation yard in the manner described, but I have not ascertained from the inspector of lunatics whether he has been correctly reported.

MR. McCARTAN: Might I ask the right hon. Gentleman, did he make any inquiry as to the correctness of the Report?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am making that inquiry.

MR. McCARTAN: The right hon. Gentleman did not answer the Question under what authority the guardians admitted the woman and kept her confined in the workhouse at the expense of the ratepayers of Belfast?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I will make inquiry into the matter.

## STREET COLLECTIONS.

MR. J. F. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department—(1) whether he will consider the propriety of establishing some system of regulation, and insisting on satisfactory proofs of good faith and the production of credentials, before sanctioning street collections for charitable objects in future; (2) whether the police have recently been made aware of gross abuses and frauds on the public in this connection; and, (3) whether the "move on" regulation can be applied to persons who take up fixed stations in the streets without leave or authority?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: These collections are not sanctioned either by myself or by the police, and without statutory powers I cannot make regulations or insist on the production of credentials or proofs of good faith. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative, and to the third that if obstruction is caused or the general public annoyed by these collectors they would be cautioned and, if necessary, removed. But so far I have received no complaints of obstruction.

## COVENT GARDEN THEATRICAL FUND.

MR. HOGAN: I beg to ask the Parliamentary representative of the Charity Commissioners, whether any inquiry into the management and present position of the Covent Garden Theatre Fund, established in 1765 for the support of aged, infirm, and indigent actors and actresses and relief of their widows and children has been instituted; and, whether he can state to what extent this fund is now fulfilling the objects for which it was founded?

MR. GRANT LAWSON (York, N.R., Thirsk): The Covent Garden Theatrical Fund is regulated by an Act of 16 Geo. III. c. 31, and so far as it is in the nature of a friendly or benefit society it is exempt from the jurisdiction of the Charity Commissioners. No such inquiry as is mentioned has been made or asked for, and consequently no such statement as is now asked for can be given.

## ARTILLERY PRACTICE RANGES.

SIR BARRINGTON SIMEON (Southampton): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether he will decline to sanction any of the several sets of bye-laws proposed to be made by the War Office in respect of artillery practice ranges from Gilkicker Fort, Spit-bank Fort, St. Helen's Fort, Horse Sand and No Man's Land Forts, No. 2 Battery Stokes Bay Lines, Parkpool Battery, Lumps Fort, the Eastney Batteries, and Fort Cumberland, until

a public inquiry has been held by the Board of Trade under the provisions of the Artillery and Rifle Ranges Act, 1885, c. 36, sec. 3, sub-sec. (2); whether at such an inquiry not only the bye-laws above referred to shall be considered, but the War Office shall be requested to bring forward any bye-laws in respect of other places which they may have under consideration, and to state the extent to which such bye-laws will affect the sea areas proposed to be affected; and, whether at such an inquiry all persons who consider themselves to be affected by such bye-laws might have an opportunity of being heard?

MR. RITCHIE: It is intended that a local public Inquiry should be held with respect to the several sets of bye-laws proposed to be made by the War Office, in respect of artillery ranges in the neighbourhood of Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, as soon as all the bye-laws at present proposed for ranges in that neighbourhood have been advertised. It will not be convenient to deal with bye-laws for ranges in other parts of the United Kingdom at the same Inquiry. I have no doubt that full information will be given at the Inquiry by the representatives of the War Office, as to the extent and effect of the proposed bye-laws. The Inquiry will be public, and all persons interested will be heard.

## CASTLECOMER COAL MINES (COUNTY KILKENNY).

MR. P. McDERMOTT (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that the men working at the coal mines of Castlecomer, county Kilkenny, cannot now be employed full time on account of the accumulation of coal due to the want of railway accommodation for its removal; and, whether he will consider the desirability of having railway connection with Castlecomer established in the interests of the men employed at the collieries, and for the further development of the colliery industry there.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: In reply to this Question I can only repeat the statement made by me on the 11th May, namely, that the proposal referred in the second paragraph will be considered in connection with other similar proposals.

### MILITARY BARRACKS (MANCHESTER AND SALFORD.)

MR. W. J. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether it has been decided to demolish the Hulme Cavalry Barracks, Manchester, and Regent Road Infantry Barracks, Salford, and to sell the sites upon which these barracks stand; whether it is intended to maintain the garrison in the future at the same strength as has been the case in the past.

*MR. BRODRICK: No decision to sell these sites has been arrived at. The whole question of barrack accommodation and the necessary garrison for Manchester and Salford is at present under consideration.

### NATIONAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND (COMMISSIONERS' REPORT).

MR. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will endeavour to secure that the Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland should be distributed in time for the adjourned Debate on the Education Estimates next Friday.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Report in question was circulated this morning.

### IRISH TEACHERS' PENSION FUND.

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury who were the members of the Committee on the Irish Teachers' Pension Fund, and by whom were they appointed; and, whether he will lay a copy of their Report, together with any actuarial Reports which were placed before them, upon the Table of the House, in order that hon. Members may have an opportunity of examining it before the adjourned discussion on the Irish Education Estimates is resumed?

MR. HANBURY: The Committee consists of Mr. Redington (the resident Commissioner of the Education Board), Mr. Finlaison (the Actuary of the National Debt Office), and Mr. Spring Rice, of the Treasury. It was appointed by the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Irish Government. I fear that their Report cannot in any case be ready in time for discussion in Supply, nor can the Government pledge themselves as to its presentation before it has been received; but, as I said on the 8th of June, "as soon as the Report of the Committee has been considered by the Government a full explanation of the position of the fund will be made to Parliament."

MR. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the proposed grant-in-aid of the Irish Teachers' Pension Fund will to any extent benefit the teachers in Irish Convent National Schools; and, if not, how is it proposed to recoup those teachers for the loss they have sustained by the now admittedly insufficient amounts granted to Ireland in respect of the school grant for the last four years?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I must ask the hon. and learned Gentleman to defer this Question till Thursday.

### EAST LONDON WATER COMPANY.

MR. HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he is aware that the East London Water Company has cut off the supply to its customers from 9 o'clock in the evening to 6 o'clock in the morning until further notice; and, if so, considering the great inconvenience caused in East London, is he prepared to take any steps in the matter?

MR. CHAPLIN: I am aware that the East London Water Company have given notice that the water supply will be shut off from 9 at night until 6 in the morning. Immediately I received the information I requested General Scott, the water examiner of the metropolis, to inquire into the facts and to report to me the result. I much regret to state that this discontinuance of the supply at night has become necessary as a precautionary measure, in consequence of the fact that the works authorised by the Act of 1894 have not yet been fully carried out, and also because of the long-continued drought, which has been far more serious even than in the previous year. I am in communication with the East London Water Company on the subject, and I hope that the New River Company—with whom, also, I am in communication—will be able to render some assistance as regards the supply by the East London Water Company.

## BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.

MR. J. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been directed to a Reuter's telegram from Cape Town, in which it is stated that in their report of the circumstances attending the Jameson Raid the Select Committee of the Cape House of Assembly find that the Chartered Company supplied all funds with the knowledge of the London office; and, whether, if on inquiry he ascertains that the Select Committee have thus reported, the Government will, pending the investigation into these matters at home, consider the propriety of advising the Crown, in the exercise of the prerogative, to suspend all rights and powers conferred on the Company by the Charter of 1889?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): In reply to the hon. and learned Member, I have to say that, so far as I can judge, there is some error in transmission in Reuter's telegram. The portion of the message referred to in the Question is not borne out either by my own official advices, by the very full telegram of *The Times*, or by the Central News message. Inquiry is, I have reason to believe, being made by the Chartered Company on the subject, and the matter will be cleared up in a day or two.

## IRISH LANDED ESTATES.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether he has inquired to what extent English and Scotch insurance companies have lent money on the security of Irish landed estates; and, (2) whether he is in a position to affirm or deny that English and Scotch insurance companies are in the aggregate thus involved in Irish landed estates to the extent of over seven millions sterling?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No such inquiry as suggested has been attempted. The Government has not

*Mr. Chaplin.*

power, nor would it be possible or desirable, to investigate the mortgage or other indebtedness of the owners of estates in Ireland, and no apparent advantage would result in attempting to distinguish between those incumbrance vested in English or Scotch insurances companies, and those vested in other public bodies, or in private persons. I am not in a position either to affirm or deny the statement made in the second paragraph.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, before the Committee Stage on Clause 34 of the Land Law (Ireland) Bill, which provides for the forced sale of Irish estates to the tenants at any price fixed by the Land Commission, he will present a Return showing the aggregate amount of capital invested by English and Scotch insurance companies in those Irish estates which are now in the Incumbered Estates Court, and to which the provisions of Clause 34 would apply?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Question does not correctly represent the terms of Clause 34, the price and the conditions at which the holdings are to be offered are to be determined by the Land Judge, having regard to what he may consider reasonable and just, taking into account "the interests of all persons interested in the estate." It would not be possible to obtain even an approximately accurate Return, such as that suggested in the Question, and even if such a Return could be obtained no just reason appears to exist for attempting to distinguish between debts due to English and Scotch insurance companies and those vested in either public bodies or in private persons.

## FISHERIES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. CHARLES WILSON (Hull, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he would endeavour to pass into law, this Session, the Fisheries Acts Amendment Bill, which is to prevent the sale of immature fish, and is pressed on the Government by the deep sea fishing interests of the East Coast, and as affecting the supply of fish to the people.

CAPTAIN PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) asked at the same time whether the Government would be prepared to receive a deputation on the subject.

MR. RITCHIE did not think it necessary that a deputation should wait upon him to inform him as the various phases of this important question. A deputation had already been received at the Board of Trade with reference to it, and he himself had had the advantage of hearing a long discussion on the subject in London by representatives of the fishing committees throughout the country, and he found that there was quite a unanimous opinion on their part that legislation in the direction of the Bill already introduced by the Government was urgently required. Having regard, however, to the statement made by the Leader of the House yesterday, he did not imagine there was much chance of the Bill being dealt with in this House this Session, unless, of course, he could receive some assurance that the Measure would be practically an uncontested one.

MR. T. R. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire. E.) could at once give the right hon. Gentleman the assurance that the Bill would be highly contentious.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman's attention had been called to the fact that there was very strong opposition to this Bill in the most important fishing centres.

MR. RITCHIE: I know there is opposition, but my opinion is that it is not a strong one.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that unanimous representations against the Bill have been received from Ramsgate and Lowestoft?

MR. RITCHIE: I am also aware that at the meeting, where all the fishing committees throughout the kingdom were represented, my right hon. Friend took up an attitude of opposition to the report and found himself in a minority of one. [*Laughter*].

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the fishermen were represented at all at this meeting?

MR. RITCHIE: I cannot say whether any particular class was represented, but I know it was attended by representative men from all the fishing committees throughout the kingdom.

MR. BUCHANAN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Bill deals with a highly contentious question as between the steam trawlers and the line fishermen?

MR. RITCHIE: I am quite satisfied that the Bill is of such a contentious nature that it is impossible to contemplate passing it this Session.

## MATABELELAND.

*MR. H. C. F. LUTTRELL (Devon, Tavistock): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether his attention has been drawn to the Press Association special telegram of Friday last from Buluwayo, stating that Native Commissioner Thomas had been on a grain-collecting expedition and had, besides killing 30 natives, collected 1,300 bags of grain; that 1,020 of these bags of grain, valued at £12,500, had been destroyed in obedience to orders; that owing to the destruction of the grain famine is imminent; and that if the natives act in accordance with the amnesty and come in it will be utterly impossible to feed them for one day; and whether, if this be the case, he will take steps to prevent such waste of food and to insure a supply of food sufficient to fulfil the terms of the amnesty?

MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a statement contained in a Reuter's telegram dated Buluwayo, 17th July, to the effect that Native Commissioner Thomas had destroyed about 1,000 bags of grain which he had captured from the natives, that famine was imminent, many of the native kraals being entirely without food, and that if the starving people should surrender and come in to Buluwayo there was not food enough in the place to feed them for a single day; whether this has been done with his authority, and, whether he will take steps to prevent the repetition of such proceedings?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: In answering this Question I may be allowed to take the opportunity of also answering the similar Question by the hon. Member for the Leigh Division of Lancashire. I have no official confirmation of the statement referred to. I do not propose to interfere with the discretion of Sir F. Carrington in the measures he may take for the suppression of the rebellion, but it does not appear to be true that the rebels are required to come to Buluwayo. If they submit, I do not doubt that every possible effort will be made to save them from starvation.

### PRISON OFFICERS' PENSIONS.

MR. LUTTRELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will take into consideration the desire for an amelioration of the pensions of the prison officers, and if necessary, make recommendations to the Treasury?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I have already given the fullest consideration to the petitions which have been submitted to me by prison officers for an improvement in the terms of their superannuation, and regret that I do not see my way to propose, or to recommend the Treasury to propose, the alteration in the law which would be necessary to place prison officers on a better footing than other civil servants in this matter. As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, the conditions of service of prison officers were fully inquired into by a Departmental Committee in 1891; this Committee, while recommending improvements in those conditions in other respects, some of which have been effected, reported against any alteration in the pension scale, and the considerations which led them to that decision remain unaltered.

### PARTY DEMONSTRATION (NEWBLISS COURTHOUSE).

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether he is aware that Orange flags were displayed from all the windows of the Newbliss courthouse on Monday the 13th July; that the courthouse was occupied during a portion of that day by a numerous body of Orangemen, including a band which crowded the magisterial bench, and played "Kick the Pope," "Boyne Water," and other party tunes; and that two justices of the peace, adorned with Orange sashes, took part in this demonstration; (2) is he also aware that there was suspended across the principal street of the town an Orange arch, under which the Roman Catholic inhabitants of the place, in proceeding about their ordinary business, were obliged to pass, amidst the gibes of persons assembled there; (3) will he take notice of the conduct of the magistrates who gave encouragement to these proceedings; and (4) will he advise that some other building than the present be obtained for judicial purposes in Newbliss?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: On the 2nd and 9th instant I stated, in answer to Questions put to me, that the room in which Petty Sessions are held at Newbliss had never been used for party purposes, nor had flags or emblems ever been displayed from this room. That statement was, I believe, correct; but I am informed that on the 13th instant Orange flags were displayed from the windows of this room, that the room was occupied by Orangemen, including a band which played several tunes, the names of which I have not been able to ascertain. Regarding the second paragraph, the police inform me that so far as they can ascertain there is no foundation for the statement that insult was offered to Roman Catholics who passed under the floral arch. As to the use of the Petty Sessions room in the manner described on the 13th instant, I have referred the matter to the Lord Chancellor.

### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (TEMPORARY TYPEWRITING CLERK).

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether an application has reached the Treasury from the Education Department for £3 3s. per week for a temporary typewriting clerk; whether he is aware that this clerk has passed no examination and has less than four years' service, whereas Second Division clerks must pass a severe competitive examination and serve 14 years before reaching a salary equal to that proposed, which is moreover unattainable by assistant clerks in the same Department, some of whom have over 20 years' service; whether the salary of the officer superintending the typewriters at the Local Government Board, whose duties include translations, shorthand, typewriting, and attendance at interviews, is only 30s. per week; and, whether there are several of the permanent staff competent to perform the duties required from the clerk for whom the application above referred to is made?

**MR. HANBURY**: I am not prepared to communicate to the hon. Member what, if any, proposals affecting the establishment of other Departments are before the Treasury. Any proposal submitted by the Education Office will receive full consideration.

## RAILWAY OUTRAGES.

**MR. JAMES O'CONNOR** (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will urge upon the railway companies the desirability of making such alterations in the structure of carriage compartments as will prevent the perpetration of outrages similar to that which has recently been committed on the Brighton line?

**MR. RITCHIE**: I propose to place myself in communication with the Railway Association on the subject referred to.

## CUSTOMS.

**CAPTAIN NORTON**: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the boy messengers employed in the Statistical Office, Customs, London, receive an annual increment of pay 56 per cent. greater than that received by the majority of established men clerks engaged in that office; and, if so, whether he can see his way to remedy this inequality?

**MR. HANBURY**: The majority of men employed in the Statistical Office of the Custom House, London, are of a grade lower than that of clerk, entitled "statistical abstractor." They are paid on a scale of annual salary common to abstractors throughout the service—namely, a scale rising from a minimum of £80 to a maximum of £150 by annual increments of £2 10s. The office of boy messenger in the Customs Department is a temporary appointment; the boys employed, whose services are discontinued when they attain the age of 20, are paid weekly wages at the rate of 6s. 6d., rising by 1s. 6d. a week per annum to a maximum of 14s. a week. The annual increase in the weekly wages of boy messengers is 56 per cent. greater than the annual rate of increment of the grade of abstractors, but the two situations are obviously of such totally different characters that a comparison of this kind, relating to a single incident of their respective emoluments, is valueless.

**MR. L. P. HAYDEN** (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what is the reason of the delay in appointing the new grade of assistants of Customs; and, whether he would take early steps to appoint those men who have been declared qualified for the position, and remove the dissatisfaction which at present prevails?

**MR. HANBURY**: There is no undue delay in appointing the new grade of assistants of Customs, a considerable amount of detail, with a consideration of the circumstances of each port, being involved. The work of assigning numbers to the respective ports is in a forward state, and, when this work is completed, successful candidates will, within the limits of the aggregate number sanctioned by the Treasury, be forthwith appointed. Meanwhile, the Treasury have allowed the Board to make these appointments retrospective to the 1st January last, so that no pecuniary loss will ensue to to the officers appointed. No expression of dissatisfaction on the subject has reached the Board of Customs.

## IRISH SCHOOL FEE GRANT.

**MR. CLANCY**: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether, in addition to the correspondence mentioned in the Report of the Board of National Education for Ireland, between that body and the Treasury, on the subject of the Irish School Grant, there are any other letters or documents relating to that matter which have passed between the Board and the Treasury; and whether he would have any objection to lay upon the Table a complete copy of the correspondence?

**MR. GERALD BALFOUR**: I have already stated that the correspondence on this subject is of a Departmental and confidential character, and that I cannot consent to lay it on the Table of the House.

### COMMISSIONERS OF IRISH LIGHTS (WRONGFUL DISMISSAL).

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the amount of the law costs incurred by the Commissioners of Irish Lights in defence of the action brought against them by Principal Keeper John George Harrison for wrongful dismissal and libel, and what Department sanctioned the payment of the costs in this action, and from what fund was the payment made; and can he state by what Department the payment by the Commissioners of Irish Lights of a sum of money as compensation to John Francis Harris, assistant keeper, for wrongful dismissal and libel, was sanctioned, and from what fund was it paid?

MR. RITCHIE: The Commissioners of Irish Lights, by the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown, paid Mr. Harrison in full discharge of all claims and £80 for costs. The Commissioners had also to pay their own costs and fees of the Jury. The Board of Trade sanctioned the payment of the costs in this action as expenses incurred by the General Lighthouse Authority. In the case of Mr. Harris, payment of £40 compensation and £5 5s. costs was also sanctioned by the Board of Trade.

### POLICE SUPERVISION.

MR. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of an ex-convict who, at Lowestoft on Monday last, was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment with hard labour for failing to report himself to the police; whether he will state who authorised the prosecution; and whether it was true that the man had obtained employment at sea for four months, that he had reported himself the day before going away at Hull and again on his return at Grimsby; and, if so, will he advise the remission of the remainder of the sentence?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I have received a report of the reconviction of the man referred to. On his release in December last he took up his residence at Lowestoft, and last reported himself to the Lowestoft police on the 1st January. During that month a summons was taken out against him for assault, but he disappeared, and though special attention was called in the *Police Gazette* to the fact that he might be found at Hull or Grimsby, the places where the prisoner alleges he reported himself, nothing more was heard of him until the present month. On his own statement even, which was entirely unsupported, he had committed an offence by leaving Lowestoft without reporting his intention of doing so to the police. The Hull police, moreover, deny that he has reported himself to them during the present year. The prosecution was undertaken, in the usual manner, by the county of Suffolk police, and I see no reason for interference. The man's previous record is a very bad one.

### ASSIZE ARRANGEMENTS.

LORD EDWARD MANNERS (Leicestershire, Milton): I beg to ask the Attorney General whether an Order in Council is under the immediate consideration of the Lord Chancellor giving effect to a Resolution of the Judges, whereby the town of Leicester and the county of Leicestershire are to be deprived of a civil assize and sent either to Derby or Nottingham; and, if so, by what right this is to be done without consulting the town or county in any way?

MR. E. H. HULSE (Salisbury): I beg to ask the Attorney General if the Lord Chancellor contemplates issuing an Order in Council for the abolition of civil business at all future assizes in the county of Wilts and other counties; and if he can state what are the exact terms of such proposed Order; and to request that such Order may not be promulgated until the local authorities and the County Councils have had an opportunity of expressing their protests against this attempt to deprive them of their historic rights?

MR. A. F. GODSON (Kidderminster): I beg to ask the Attorney General whether it has been decided that in future civil assizes will be held only once a year at Worcester; and, if so, why this course has been proposed, thus depriving that county and city of their ancient privileges without any consultation with the local authorities?

MR. A. STRAUSS (Cornwall, Camborne): I beg to ask the Attorney General if it is proposed that in future the Cornish assizes, or some of them, shall be held at Exeter, instead of Bodmin as heretofore; and if he will take immediate steps to prevent that proposal from being carried out, as the great distance from many parts of Cornwall to Exeter would entail great inconvenience to litigants and witnesses?

MR. W. W. CARLILE (Bucks, N.): I beg to ask the Attorney General whether the Lord Chancellor purposes, by an Order in Council, to deprive Buckinghamshire of a civil assize; and, if so, on what grounds such a proposal is made, and whether the interests of the county have been consulted?

MR. C. G. PYM (Bedford): I beg to ask the Attorney General if the Lord Chancellor contemplates issuing an Order in Council for the abolition of civil business at future assizes in the county of Bedford, and whether the promulgation of such Order could be postposed until the county and borough of Bedford have had an opportunity of expressing their views on this proposal to deprive them of their ancient rights?

MR. RADCLIFFE COOKE (Hereford) asked whether a similar resolution was in contemplation for the city of Hereford, and whether the inhabitants would not be consulted before the change was made?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): In reply to these questions, I am directed by the Lord Chancellor to say that, so far as he is concerned, no alteration in the assize arrangements will be made without opportunity being given to those who are interested in the matter being heard; but it is not desirable at the present stage to enter upon a discussion of matters which are the subject of communications between the Lord Chancellor and Her Majesty's Judges.

## GOVERNMENT BILLS.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury on what days he proposes to ask the House to make progress with the Truck Bill and the Coal Mines Bill?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) was understood to say that he could not make the statement asked for, but the Bills referred to would not be taken to-night.

## ORDNANCE FACTORIES VOTE.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now state when he hopes to take the Ordnance Factories Vote?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY was unable yet to state when the Ordnance Factories Vote would be taken.

## MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. J. SAMUEL (Stockton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that many Members are keenly opposed to the Military Land Act (1892) Amendment Bill, it is still his intention to include this Measure in the list of Bills to be proceeded with as non-contentious?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he could not admit that the Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill was opposed by any large number of Members. He thought he could show that it was a Measure which had receive support in so many quarters that he should not like to say more at the present time on the question of proceeding or not proceeding with it.

## PUBLIC BUSINESS.

MR. HENRY LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether it would be possible, with a view to the convenience of Members, to state each day before Public Business what Bills will be taken after 12 p.m. on that evening; and also whether some arrangement could be made as to the day on which the Uganda Vote should be brought on?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: In regard to the Uganda Railway I believe the Treasury contemplate bringing on the Bill as soon as possible, but of course not to-day. With regard to the general question on the Paper it will be impossible for me to give a pledge on the subject. What Bills will be taken on any evening after midnight must inevitably depend upon the nature of the business which the House has to discuss. With regard to to-night, there will be no idea of curtailing proceedings on the Irish Land Bill for the purpose of taking any other Measure that will require to be discussed.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): May we take it for granted that the Military Works Bill will not be brought on to-night?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Certainly, if that is the view of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Will the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House give us 24 hours' notice of the Uganda Railway Bill?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I will endeavour to do that. I think that probably it could be done.

MR. DILLON asked that some notice should be given as to the intentions of the Government with regard to the business on the Paper—*e.g.*, whether he could not state that if the Irish Land Bill was continued till after 1 o'clock, he would not take other Government business after that late hour, or give notice at the beginning of business each night.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: As I have just stated, it is not my intention to take any business which would occupy time after the Irish Land Bill, and there is no idea of curtailing the discussion on the Irish Land Bill, in order to give time for anything else. I do not propose to do anything of the sort. But if there be any Measure quite uncontroversial, I see no objection to its being advanced.

SIR W. HARCOURT: With regard to the notice on the Paper, I would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he would make arrangements, on the additional days proposed to be set apart for Supply, for two subjects of paramount importance. There must be a discussion as to the state of affairs in South Africa and the intentions of the Government with reference to the Inquiry into the Chartered Company. [*Cheers.*] That is one question; but I do not ask the right hon. Gentleman to fix the exact date. In making his arrangements for Supply, however, I think he might set a day apart for this discussion. There is still another matter which I confess I regard as of still more paramount and urgent importance, and that is the discussion of the present condition of things with reference to the Venezuelan boundary. ["Hear, hear!"] That is a matter of most urgent importance. The Prime Minister has invited opinion on that subject in publishing the Despatches, and, of course, the opinion of the House of Commons ought to be expressed with reference to it. Therefore I trust the right hon. Gentleman will set apart a day so that the opinion of the House of Commons may be ascertained and stated on that question.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: With regard to the appeal made to me by the right hon. Gentleman, of course a desire expressed from that quarter of the House that there are great questions of public urgency requiring discussion is one which cannot be ignored or rejected by the Government. With regard to South Africa, I may remind the right hon. Gentleman that there have been two days already given to that question, and I am not aware that anything new has occurred since the last discussion to necessitate further Debate.

SIR W. HARCOURT: What has occurred has been this. The Colonial Secretary has always stated that he could not announce to the House what course was going to be taken with regard to that Inquiry until the conclusion of the trial now going on. It is obvious that we have had no statement on that subject, and we must have a statement which must be discussed on that question.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: The best time for the discussion would be when my right hon. Friend makes his promised statement. But I do not think we could give up a day set down for Supply. We must find some other day, because the 23 days for Supply are already fully occupied; but if the discussion has to interfere with Government time I see no alternative. With regard to Venezuela, it is true that Papers have been published, but it is also true that the negotiations to which the Papers refer are still pending, and there are obvious inconveniences in the House discussing questions of international diplomacy which are not completed matters, but which are still under discussion by the two Governments concerned. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would confer with me on those two subjects in order that we may be able to come to some arrangement.

MR. F. A. CHANNING (Northampton, E.): On what day does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take the chief remaining Votes of Class II.?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Without giving an absolute pledge, I should desire to take Class II. on Friday, July 31.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): Will the right hon. Gentleman find an opportunity to discuss the Commercial Department of the Foreign and the commercial action of the Colonial Offices?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I do not think that I can give my hon. Friend a pledge to find a convenient hour for discussing them.

MR. W. REDMOND: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of the fact that in the course of Debate the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs gave a promise that the Government would afford time for a discussion with regard to Venezuela?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I am not aware that my right hon. Friend gave that pledge, but I have already stated that I shall come to an arrangement with the Leader of the Opposition, which will enable the matter to be discussed if it is absolutely necessary.

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## MAHARAJAH OF JHALLAWAR.
## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask leave to move the Adjournment of the House—[" oh, oh!"]—for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, "The treatment by the Indian Government of the Maharajah of Jhallawar and the unsatisfactory character of the inquiry into his case."

MR. CLANCY: I rise to ask a question on a point of Order. The question to which the hon. Member wishes to call the attention of the House is a year old, and the decision of the Government is three months old. Can this be called a definite matter of urgent public importance—[*cheers*]—and can any Motion be based on it?

*MR. SPEAKER: I have inquired into the facts, and I do not think that the hon. Member has quite accurately stated the dates; but, however that may be, I cannot take upon myself the responsibility of saying that this is not a matter of urgent public importance.

The pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. SPEAKER called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places. There being some doubt as to whether not fewer than 40 Members supported the Motion,

*MR. SPEAKER said: I must ask hon. Members to stand while being counted.

In the process of counting Mr. W. REDMOND called out "Obstructing the Land Bill," followed by cries of "Order!"

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is supported by more than 40 Members. [*Opposition cheers.*]

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS, who spoke amid Nationalist cries of "Divide!" and "Order!" moved "That this House do now adjourn." He said that the case was an important one, because the issue involved the principle upon which the whole constitutional question of the position of the Indian native Princes rested. He contended that when such a dispute as this occurred a native Prince ought to have some opportunity of stating his case and making a defence before an impartial tribunal. The case divided itself into four periods. The first period began in 1884 and ended in 1887. This native Prince attained his majority in 1884, and was instituted as ruler in that year. A condition affecting the Maharajah's rule was that until he gained more experience he was to consult the Political Agent on all important matters; and the second condition was that he was not to alter or reverse any measures that passed during his minority without the concurrence of the Political Agent. The whole point therefore was whether the Maharajah had knowingly violated any of the conditions of his rule. Some friction arose during this period, and the then Political Agent brought two or three charges against him in 1887. One was that the Prince had put the Political Agent at his left hand instead of at his right hand at the durbar. The Prince replied that he had followed well-established precedent. In September 1887, he was deprived of his ruling powers. The next period began in 1887 and ended in 1892. In 1890 the Maharajah wrote to the Viceroy of India that he had not knowingly broken any of the conditions, and stated that the whole matter turned on the reading to be attached to the phrase "important matters." In 1892 Colonel Trevor recommended that the Prince be reinstated subject to three conditions—(1) control of the revenue in Agent's hands; (2) consultation on important matters with the Political Agent; (3) that measures authorised by previous Councils under Agent's administration be not altered. In 1892 the Maharajah was reinstated, and all went well for two years. In 1894 the Prince was reinstated with full powers, and there was no condition whatsoever——

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): Yes, there was.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: With one exception—as I was going to say, if the noble Lord will allow me. In September 1894, Colonel Trevor wrote to Calcutta, recommending that the Prince should have full powers, subject to one condition—

> "that he will not nominate any new members of his Council without assent of the Agent to Governor General of Rajputana."

Major Irwin, then Political Agent at Jhallawar, pointed out that this was a condition which it would be impossible for the Prince to accept. Letter contained phrase—

> "I don't suppose he will govern his State any worse than some chiefs with full powers."

A letter from the Government of India to Secretary of State, dated Simla, the 11th September 1894, stated:—

> "With reference to Lord Kimberley's Despatch, dated the 2nd March 1893, we have the honour to report, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, that, acting on the recommendation of the Governor General's Agent in Rajputana, we have ordered the restoration of full administrative powers to His Highness Maharaj Rana Zalim Singh of Jhallawar."

*Mr. Herbert Roberts.*

Prince restored with full powers, subject—

> "to keeping the Political Agent freely and fully informed as to all matters with which he ought to be acquainted."

Lord Elgin wrote:—

> "I rely upon your Highness to keep the Political Agent freely and fully informed of all the matters with which he ought to be acquainted, and it is necessary that I should add a caution that, if, unhappily, the Government of India should hereafter be unable to approve of your Highness's conduct of the administration, the present decision will be liable to reconsideration."

The hon. Member contended that a careful perusal of Blue-book forces to conclusion that, as the presence and conduct of Major Wylie, as Political Agent, had led to the deprivation of the Prince's powers in 1887, so the arrival of Captain Evans Gordon led to his deposition in February 1896. The whole point which he desired to raise was that the House of Commons should see that, when charges of this kind were raised against a native prince, he ought to have the right, like other mortals, to be heard before an impartial tribunal. [*Cheers.*] Anyone acquainted with the Oriental idea, or with India, must know how important this consideration was. The Prince, like many other princes, had the misfortune of being surrounded by unscrupulous advisers who made him their tool. In dealing with the last stage—namely, the period from 1894 to 1896—he should put the matter briefly. Captain Evans Gordon arrived as Political Agent in 1895. The correspondence between him and the Prince divided itself, naturally, into what was trifling and what was important. As to the former, he might quote a few sentences. Captain Gordon writes:—

> "It has been reported to me that Bhawani Lal has been appointed munsarim of the stables in place of Khwajukhan. I must remind your Highness that this man was turned out of the State in 1891 by the Political Agent and Council, with the approval of the Agent to the Governor General, and that Col. Trevor only allowed him

to return temporarily to Jhalawar in 1892. Under these circumstances to give Bhawani Lal an appointment without consulting me constitutes a breach of the conditions laid down in His Excellency the Viceroy's kharita, under which full powers were restored to your Highness."

The Prince replied:—

"With reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo about Bhawani Lal's appointment, I have the pleasure to say that, when I had engaged him as kamdar to Moharaniji Rathorje, I believe I verbally mentioned the fact to Mr. Irwin, and as no objection was raised against the appointment, I thought in giving Bhawani Lal the stables post (in addition to his own) there would be no objection. Had I known that there existed anything against his present appointment I would not have appointed him on the stables without your consultation. But, since the man has already been dismissed from his posts and the State, I hope you will kindly think the matter fit to be dropped now."

Then they read:—

"Captain Evans Gordon wrote to me yesterday and asked me to write to you about sweetmeats that have been collected at the palace. These sweetmeats should be used as soon as possible, as they won't keep, and will very likely give rise to bowel complaints. If you have no objection I will go and see them if you appoint some one to show them to me, and advise as to their disposal."

The Prince replied:—

"Your letter of the 12th, No. 321, about sweetmeats that are said to have been collected at the palace In reply, I have the pleasure to say that no sweetmeats are allowed to go on accumulating. What are prepared within the two previous days are consumed on the third day, as a rule. I may say that no sweetmeats are remaining now, all having been used up already in the above-mentioned order."

He would come next to the more serious charges, and one of these was the charge of the withdrawal of four and a-half lakhs from the Treasury. By the arrangement of 1894 the Prince retained full control of the revenue. In December 1895 the Indian Government sent a very reliable official to investigate and report. This was Colonel Crosthwaite, who was met by Captain Gordon outside the camp, and there obtained a report as to the Prince's conduct. The Prince complained of this to Calcutta, that he had been subjected to insult and high-handed treatment by Captain Gordon. These were the main charges. Captain Gordon wrote:—

"Enclosed statements were voluntarily made to me. Three of the men gave me the information on 4th January. The evidence proves that orders were issued to the troops to assemble, that ball ammunition was distributed, and that the rifles were loaded. The place of assembly was the Fatch Pultan lines, near the grass stacks and close to the Agency and Agent to the Governor General's Camp. The movement of the troops and preparations were well-known in the town, and the matter was at once reported to me from half-a-dozen different quarters. We know that His Highness feared arrest, and it is my opinion that any supposed attempt upon him would have been resisted. It was merely a chance that some violence did not take place, for had we, who were in the tent, unwittingly done anything to harm him, His Highness would have given the signal and trouble would most likely have ensued. The Chief came to the interview with a revolver, and he was constantly looking out through the chikhs to see whether his men were there. Ahmed Shah Khan, Akram Khan's son, was seen behind the Agent to the Governor General's Camp, with some Vilayatis while the interview was going on, by my own office people. If it is thought necessary more evidence can be obtained, but the officers and men are very much afraid of being left to the mercy of the Chief, and it is remarkable that any of them should dare to come forward. It is believed that all their names are in the possession of His Highness, and that he intends taking some measures to make them deny what they have said."

Then Colonel Crosthwaite wrote:—

"On the 31st I had a letter sent to His Highness asking him to come and see me. He at first declined to see me unless I paid him a ceremonial visit. He then said he would come if I assured him that at the interview he would not be arrested and deported to Benares. I replied that he would at the conclusion of the visit be allowed to leave in the usual manner, and that, if his Excellency the Viceroy were to order his arrest, the arrest would be made publicly and not by inviting him to visit me in my tent. I also told him that I had been directed to warn him of the serious nature of the case against him, and to invite from him an expression of what he had to say in explanation or extenuation. After receiving this letter His Highness came and saw me. He had a revolver in his belt. The Political Agent and Captain Impey, the First Assistant, were present at the interview. His Highness's attitude was unfriendly and uncompromising, and he appeared to be very angry. He refused to shake hands with Captain Evans Gordon. He steadily maintained that he was right in what he had done. The Viceroy had given him full powers and he had a full right to exercise those powers without interference. He had not, in his opinion, done anything contrary to the injunctions contained in his Excellency's kharita. With regard to his dealings with the Political Agent, he said that he was not to blame, he had been very good friends until Captain Gordon had shaken his fist in his (His Highness's) face, and told him to accept a certain official's resignation. I told His Highness that I considered his action in sending away his Diwan and some other officials just before my visit was wrong; that His Highness was bound, in accordance with the Viceroy's instructions, to furnish all material information, and that sending away the Diwan so that he should not speak to me was a violation of those instructions. His Highness said that he had sent the Diwan off on State business, and had done nothing unusual or contrary to the Viceroy's orders. I must mention that on the 30th December I wrote to the Maharaj Rana, objecting to his sending away the Diwan, to whom I wished to speak on State matters, and requesting His Highness to recall that officer to Patan. To that he replied, 'I do not think I ought knowingly to allow him (the Diwan) to speak against me behind my back with the object of promoting his desires and to increase the present difficulties.' He concluded by requesting me to put in writing any questions I wanted to put to the Diwan, and he (His Highness) would get his written reply. No attention was paid to my request for the recall of the Diwan, and on the 31st of December I wrote to His Highness and told him that I should like to see the Diwan on the 1st of January. His Highness replied that he had sent the Diwan off to a place 60 miles away, and he could not return within the time required."

The Maharajah's reply to the charges was as follows:—

"In regard to the insults, hardships and high-handed treatment to which I have been and am still subjected, although I wanted to send full particulars in a separate kharita, giving full and proper proofs, but I was ill, and while not yet fully restored to health, preparations were made to send troops against me, under the orders of the Political Agent and the Agent to the Governor General without any cause. Cavalry from Agar and troops and sowars from Deoli were sent for without any cause, and I have further heard that more troops have been ordered from Deoli. In accordance with the desire of the Political Agent, the Bakhshi—namely, Paymaster and Commander-in-Chief of the troops, who was an old servant of the State, has been ordered to be dismissed without cause, and Bhawani Singhji, who is the son of a Jagirdar, and my mortal enemy, who declares falsely that he is the heir of the "Gadi," but in reality is not the heir, because if he or his family had been the heir, why should the late Maharajah Prithi Rajji have called me from Kathiawar and made me his heir, has been appointed "Bakhshi" of the army. From the date of his appointment, at the suggestion of the Political Agent, he has been fabricating false evidence about the distribution of cartridges, by tempting some of the men in the army, by holding out hopes to them of promotion of rank and increase of salary, and by threatening others with bad treatment and harm. He has got together about 10 to 11 men, who by his inducement, having sold their faith merely for the sake of their own welfare, or from fear of ill-treatment and harm, are giving such a false account of distribution of cartridges as cannot be even reasonably entertained or imagined. He causes it to be written down and then attested at the Agency. Daily men, most of whom have been punished, are called to the Agency, and their statements are written down. No attention is paid to the statements of those men who, fearing God and having regard to their conscience, decline to make false statements about the distribution of cartridges, and object that this had no foundation at all; nor is their statement taken down. I beg to bring to your Excellency's notice the fraudulent and deceitful proceedings of this man, and request that your Excellency out of kindness and a sense of justice will not take into your consideration their fabricated evidence and artful proceedings. I hope that no attention will be paid to their *ex parte* and false proceedings, otherwise I shall be unjustly subjected to great oppression, and Government after becoming aware of the true circumstances, which I am ready to prove, will have cause for regret. As for myself, I beg to state that I have neither done anything wrong, nor intend to do so, and that I have done nothing but remain silent and carry out orders. The relatives of the Agency establishment have spread a report that the Dewan has been promised by the Political Agent that if he can get a Superintendency established, he (Political Agent) will become Agent there, and will make him Vice President of the Council. On this account the Dewan of the State, the Political Agent and Kunwar Bhawani Singh have induced most of the army and other officials of the State to bring about mismanagement of the affairs of the State. In short they have induced them to act in opposition to me, and have thus subjected me to severe oppression. They have given such exaggerated accounts (of my proceedings, that I am in fear of my life. They have so disappointed those men, who do not wish to act against me, that they are ready to leave service and go away. Even the English knowing head clerk, who was in my service, was so much threatened that he resigned his appointment. Now I have nobody who knows English. I have therefore had to write this kharita in Urdu. As, in consideration of my good-will, I consider myself to be under the care and protection of Government, I have therefore given this brief account of my circumstances in the hope of obtaining justice. I trust that mercy will be speedily shown to me, so that my life may be saved, and all the high-handed treatment to which I have been subjected at the instance of the Political Agent under the advice of the Agent to the Governor General, and to which I may be subjected in future, may be put a stop to with the utmost promptitude."

There was another important point he had to make, and that was that the Prince had expressed a strong desire to have a Commission of Inquiry into his case. On February 12, 1896, he wrote to the Viceroy:—

"I request that a Commission may be appointed to make inquiries, and the members should be such as have no connection with the Rajputana Presidency."

Was not that a reasonable request to make? In reply to that request the Government of India wrote :—

> "The demand for a commission made by the Maharaj Rana overlooks the true issue. The Government of India, as the paramount power, are bound in their dealings with native States to hold the scales equal, and, while they secure the Chief in the exercise of the powers that belong to him, to protect his subjects from misgovernment by their misuse. Where it is necessary for the Government of India to interfere to secure good government, they must act on their responsibility and by the advice of their accredited agents, and can delegate their functions to no other authority or tribunal."

He agreed with every word of that reply. The Government of India must "hold the scales equal" between the native rulers and the agents of Great Britain who reside with them.

MR. BHOWNAGGREE : That reply had reference to the relations between native Chiefs and their subjects, and not to the relations between native Chiefs and the officers of the Indian Government.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS said he was dealing with the principle contained in the demand of the Maharajah. It did not overlook the issue, because the scales could not be held equally between the parties to a dispute unless an opportunity of being heard was given to each party.

> "The Government of India must act on their own responsibility, and not delegate their functions to other tribunals."

He quite agreed in that, but the Government were not asked to delegate their functions. They were only asked to hear both sides before coming to a decision. This principle was vital to the issue. Colonel Crosthwaite himself seemed to admit that, before the facts could be really understood and judged upon, a formal inquiry must be held. On this point he would direct the noble Lord's attention to a paragraph in a letter of Colonel Crosthwaite, in which the Prince was deposed, in which he said :—

> "Without holding a formal inquiry it is impossible to say whether he speaks the truth."

*LORD GEORGE HAMILTON : What is Colonel Crosthwaite's own opinion?

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS : He said, "I do not believe it;" but that did not affect the point. The noble Lord said that the decision arrived at in February last was final, and could not be reopened. He hoped, however, that the result of this discussion would be to cause the noble Lord to reconsider the matter, and to give the Maharajah Rana some further and adequate opportunity of stating his case and defending his action. He did not desire to ask the House of Commons to pass judgment on either party. That was a matter for the Indian Government. But he did claim that the Imperial Parliament had a right to lay down the principle on which the Indian Government should act, and to say that, when such serious charges were made by a political agent against a native Prince, the latter should have an opportunity of defending himself before judgment was passed. Great interest was taken in this matter throughout India. The Indian Press without exception was loud in protesting against what had occurred. The English Press, without distinction of party, joined in demanding a fair hearing for the Rajah, and he believed that in pleading his cause he was but advocating a principle which was vital, in his opinion, to the continuance of those relations of goodwill and confidence between Great Britain and the Empire of India on which the welfare of the two countries depended.

*SIR W. WEDDERBURN (Banffshire) seconded the Motion. He said he wished to refer chiefly to two points, namely, the importance of this matter, and the necessity of giving the Rajah an impartial trial. It had been said by the political officers that these proceedings were being very closely watched all over Rajputana. But he went further, and said that the proceedings were being watched by every ruling Chief throughout India, not only with interest, but with anxiety, and alarm. How could that fail to be the case when they saw one of their number deprived of his throne and exiled from his dominions, not for any maladministration proved in public Inquiry, but upon the secret reports of the Political Agent who was on bad terms with the Prince himself. Our position in India depended very much on the goodwill of the native Chiefs. At the time of the Mutiny they were our sheet-anchor, and those who took an interest in our Imperial fortunes should be especially careful to remove all causes of unrest and alarm among the native Chiefs of India. He did not say there were not cases in which the Government of India ought to interfere—cases in which maladministration and tyranny were proved. In such cases it was not only the right but the duty of the Indian Government to interfere. He agreed entirely with the view that it was to the paramount Power alone that the inhabitants of native States should look for protection against misgovernment and tyranny; but what he contended for was that in this case no tyranny and no oppression had been proved against the Chief in question. He maintained that this was a personal quarrel, and that the charges of maladministration were somewhat of an afterthought. It was the misfortune of our political system in India that in every native State there were two kings, the Rajah on the one hand, who gathered around him the supporters of the "ins;" and the Political Agent, on the other hand, who gathered around him every faction who might be termed the "outs." The only story the Government of India heard was the story told by the Political Agent, whose only source of information was the faction whose very object it was to discredit the Rajah. His proposition was that this Prince had not had an impartial trial, because all the information on which the Government of India had acted was onesided information, obtained from a tainted source. Such being the case, he was entitled to a fair and impartial hearing before the very serious step of deposing him was taken. The correspondence showed that there was no real popular discontent. All the signs of popular discontent were wanting. What were the charges of misgovernment? The only thing he saw charged in the nature of maladministration had reference to the revenue settlement, and the remarkable part of that accusation was, not that the Rajah had taken too much from his subjects, but the statement of the agent absolutely was that he did not take enough. He only wished that the people of British India could make that charge against their Government. Another complaint was that the Rajah cut down expenses. Again, he could only wish that the Government of India would do the same thing, and so get rid of a great deal of objectionable taxation. The reports of the political officer did not lay any great stress on acts of maladministration. The Government of India practically gave away the whole case by saying that the question before them had been not so much specific acts of maladministration by the Rajah himself as his attitude towards the British Government. The whole case had arisen out of a quarrel between the political agency and the Rajah, and what was asked was that there should be an impartial inquiry. He had no special knowledge of this particular Chief but it was in the interests of all the Chiefs, and because he believed there was no more important thing for our rule in India than to cultivate and retain the goodwill and friendship of the native Chiefs that he seconded this Motion.

*LORD GEORGE HAMILTON said that he could not question the right of the hon. Gentleman to make exceptional use of the forms of the House to call attention to this question; but he thought everyone in the House would admit that he had chosen a singularly inopportune time. These Papers had been in the hands of the House for some time past, and the matter might have been raised last week or the week before, next week or the week after, without in the least degree affecting the hon. Member's case. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Member had deliberately selected a day specially apportioned to the discussion of an important Bill in which many hon. Gentlemen took a great interest. The question which the House wished to discuss was more or less limited by time, and if a Motion of this kind was made in order to obtain a great slice of the time of the House for one day it was more or less an indirect attempt to kill that Measure. ["Hear, hear!"] He thought he could demolish the whole of the hon. Gentleman's case in half-a-dozen minutes. It was a matter of great surprise to him that two hon. Gentlemen should read the Blue-book with such blind eyes. Every little detail in favour of the Maharajah had been paraded before the House, but the main facts on which his deposition was based had altogether escaped their notice. He was the adopted son of the ruler of a small State created by the Indian Government, and on the death of his adopted father he was sent to a college at Rajputana. During the time he was a minor his State was governed by a Native Council, under the superintendence of the Political Agent. The result of that was that the State greatly improved in prosperity, and the people became habituated to good government and administration. When he arrived at his majority the Indian Government only allowed him to undertake the functions of government on the condition that he did not attempt to upset the principles of government in force during his minority, and that in all cases of material importance he should consult the Political Agent. It was said that there was a personal quarrel between him and the Political Agent, but there had not been a single Government during the last 15 years who had not come into collision with him, or a solitary Political Agent who had not had occasion to report him. The first was Sir Edward Bradford, the present Chief Commissioner of Police, and all who knew him would say that he was a model Political Agent, combining firmness with a courtesy and charm of manner which was seldom to be found. The Maharajah had not been two years discharging the functions of his State before Sir Edward Bradford had to report him as almost hopeless. He did all he could to keep him straight, but the young man disregarded his advice, and the only alternative seemed to be to depose him. The Indian Government declined to adopt that step, but considerably reduced his powers and addressed to him a very severe warning. That was under Lord Dufferin. The succeeding Viceroy, Lord Lansdowne, had attention called to his conduct, and had to address to him a still stronger caution, pointing out that it might be necessary to remove him outside the State. This apparently had some effect upon him, and to a certain extent he became more amenable to advice, and shortly afterwards he was allowed to discharge some of the functions he had previously enjoyed. Later on, as he seemed more disposed to act on advice and to carry on his government on proper lines Colonel Irvine, the then Political Agent, recommended that he might be given the full powers he originally had. The one mistake was clearly the granting of those powers, because the moment he had them he lapsed back into his old habits. Captain Evans Gordon then appeared on the scene, and finding malpractices going on in every branch of the administration, protested against it. The Maharajah then deliberately tried to bribe Captain Evans Gordon, and, the attempt being exposed, refrained from offering any apology to the Political Agent, who found himself boycotted, those who visited him punished, and his repesentations ignored. The state of things made it necessary for the Government of India to order the Governor General's Agent, Mr. Crosthwaite, to intervene. But when Mr. Crosthwaite proceeded to Jhallawar, he was received in a manner which raised the most serious questions as to the state of the Maharajah's mind. The Maharajah made no effort to comply with the Order of the Government of India and—so far from furnishing the explanation asked for—it was found he had sent his two chief officials, who could have given the necessary information, to distant places where they were inaccessible. And this was the action of the chief on whose behalf it was now contended that he had never had an opportunity of making his defence. Nor did the Government of India take action on Mr. Crosthwaite's Report till the Maharajah had submitted to them more than one representation as to his position. Undoubtedly it was necessary most scrupulously to guard the rights and privileges of Indian princes and he himself fully admitted it. ["Hear, hear!"] At the present moment he was glad to say the relations between those princes and the Indian Government were most cordial. Through the assistance and advice of the Political Agents, we had to discharge a most difficult duty. The administration of the native States was steadily improving, but, just as we had a duty towards the native princes, so had the Indian Government a duty towards the people who lived in the native States. We had taken from them the means of revolution, and we were, therefore, bound to prevent misgovernment. In the present instance, the Prince had refused to comply with the conditions on which alone we could accept his authority, and as he had set the Indian Government at defiance his deposition could not be avoided.

MR. CLANCY rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

*MR. SPEAKER withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) said the only charge of maladministration against this Prince was that he had attempted bribery, but it was clear from the Blue-book that that attempt had been made, not by the Maharajah of Jhallawar, but by a Bengali Baboo, who had been dismissed by the Resident and who had offered the new agent 15,000 rupees if he would refrain from further action against him. He protested against the Prince having been deposed without being heard in his own defence. Not a single fact showed, directly or indirectly, that the Maharajah was a party to bribery. He thought there was plenty of territory already under the Crown, and that those native estates should be kept for the development of native statesmanship.

*MR. H. J. WILSON (York, W.R., Holmfirth) said he was inclined to agree with the Secretary for India that this young man was a rather difficult person to deal with; and he thought it was hardly wise to invest a youth of 18, straight from college, with such powers. It seemed to him most important that the native princes should understand more clearly than they do the circumstances under which they were liable to be deposed. He had had the honour of being a member of the Royal Commission on Opium. A good deal of evidence was laid before it as to the rights the Government of India claimed to exercise over the native princes. He found ——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman would not be in order in going into the general question of the relation between the Indian Government and the native princes. He must confine himself to the question of the deposition of the Maharajah.

*MR. H. J. WILSON said he was merely going to point out that it was stated to the Commission to be only on certain specified grounds of maladministration and otherwise that the native princes were interfered with. Neither in the Papers presented to the House nor in the statement of the noble Lord the Secretary for India was there any evidence of maladministration, cruelty, or injustice against the Maharajah. was, to a large extent, a question of jealousy, of good manners or bad manners, and of a personal quarrel between the Political Resident and this young man.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) rose to continue the Debate, when

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

*MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman was about to withdraw his Motion?

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: Yes, Sir; in the circumstances, I beg to ask leave to withdraw the Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

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## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY moved, "That three additional days be allotted to the business of Supply."

Motion agreed to.

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## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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## LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

[Progress, 20th July.]

Clause 7,—

### LETTINGS BY PERSONS NOT ABSOLUTE OWNERS.

The Land Law Acts shall apply and be deemed to have always applied in the case of tenancies created by a limited owner, or by a mortgagor or mortgagee in possession, where no fine or premium was received, and the tenancies shall not be or be deemed to have been determined (except in the case of fraud or collusion or a letting at a gross undervalue) by the cesser of the interest or possession of such limited owner, mortgagor, or mortgagee, and the person entitled on such cesser to receive the rent of the holding shall stand in the relation of landlord to the tenant of the holding, and have the rights and be subject to the obligations of landlord accordingly.

Another Amendment proposed (20th July) at the end of the clause to add the words—

"(2) This section shall not apply to a tenancy in a holding which at the date of the letting was demesne land—where the application of the Land Law Acts to the tenancy would materially diminish the value as a residence of the mansion-house situate on and theretofore occupied with the demesne."—*(Mr. Gerald Balfour.)*

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Amendment proposed, to leave out from the proposed Amendment the words—

"where the application of the Land Law Acts to the tenancy would materially diminish the value as a residence of the mansion house situate on and theretofore occupied with the demesne."—*(Colonel Saunderson.)*

Question proposed, "That the word 'where' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

Debate resumed:—

Colonel SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) said that on Clause 2 he moved an Amendment, to which the Amendment of the Chief Secretary bore more or less of a resemblance, except that his right hon. Friend at the end of his Amendment added an utterly unnecessary qualification. The question at issue was only of trifling importance, but at the same time he could not see why his right hon. Friend should refuse to omit the words he, by his Amendment, asked to have struck out. All he asked was that if a limited owner chose to let his demesne to tenants, and thereby undemesned his residence, the remainderman—the son, or whoever else he might be—should not be bound by a transaction which was fraudulent in its character. Therefore, he proposed to leave out words in his right hon. Friend's Amendment which would force the remainderman after he had inherited the estate to go to considerable trouble and expense in establishing his right to resume possession of the land as demesne.

Mr. EDWARD CARSON (Dublin University) said that when his hon. and gallant Friend moved his Amendment on Clause 2, there was a general feeling that it should be accepted, and his right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary stated he took no exception to it, but that he did not think the words proposed were quite apt. The Attorney General for Ireland also said that it was only justice that some such Amendment should be accepted. The Amendment was then withdrawn, but it was only withdrawn because it was felt that it would be more appropriately moved to Clause 7 than to Clause 2. Under those circumstances, he could not see why the Chief Secretary should have neutralised the object of the Amendment by the words which the Amendment of his hon. and gallant Friend proposed to omit. A good deal had happened since the first night the Bill was in Committee, but he did not think anything had happened that would justify his right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary in going back on his acceptance of the principle of the Amendment moved by his hon. and gallant Friend. But he hardly thought his right hon. Friend knew the effect of his own Amendment. If it passed in its present form the Amendment would only apply at all to cases where the residence was let with the demesne. In other words, if the limited owner let the residence and the demesne this proposed exception would not apply at all, and the remainderman would be deprived, not only of his demesne, but of his residence. If the residence as well as the demesne was included in the letting no question could arise as to the value of the residence to the remainderman. But why should demesne land be taken away for ever from the remainderman unless the remainderman was able to show the value of the demesne to the residence? If the remainderman were well off, he might wish to have his demesne, though it might have no effect on the value of the residence. The very fact that a residence had less land with it might, in a country like Ireland, make it more valuable. Was it not a hardship that, in every case where demesne was let away by the tenant for life, the only way by which the remainderman could get it back was by instituting a suit before the Land Commission? A case under this section, as it was framed, coming before the Land Commission, would, in all probability, be a letting by a limited owner in the life of the limited owner. He was aware that there were cases which had been held to be demesne, and which were not in any sense properly demesne. But he was putting the case of land which was incontestably demesne at the time of letting, and which ought to be preserved to the remainderman.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that he should be sorry to do anything contrary to any pledge which he had given, but this Amendment of the Government was put down as a result of the discussion on Clause 2. There had been no change in the drafting of the Amendment. He should be perfectly ready to accept the Amendment of the right hon. and learned Gentleman which was on the Paper, excluding the case where the mansion house was let with the demesne; but he did not think that it was necessary. If the mansion house were let with the land, the holding would be a residential holding, which could not come within the Acts. The Amendment of the Government secured that the limited owner should not deprive the remainderman of the amenities which he might expect to enjoy with the mansion house. The reason why he would rather not accept the present Amendment was that there might be a piece of demesne which was quite outlying, and which it would be perfectly proper for the limited owner to let, because the amenities of the residence would not be curtailed.

Question put:—The Committee divided:—Ayes, 310; Noes, 46.—(Division List, No. 341.)

Mr. CARSON moved to insert in the proposed Amendment after the word "where" the words—

"the mansion house is let with such demesne land or"

He said he understood his right hon. Friend was prepared to accept the Amendment if he showed the necessity of it, and he thought he should be able to show that it was absolutely necessary. He thought his right hon. Friend would perceive that the Amendment as it at present stood only applied to demesne land apart from the residence. His right hon. Friend said it was unnecessary to make any reference to a case where a mansion house was let with the demesne land because in that case it would be a residential holding. He thought his right hon. Friend was in error in that. The section dealt with a case where the holding was in the hands of a tenant. If it was a case of an absolute owner they would destroy the character of the demesne land. Therefore they came to deal with a question where, so far as any argument on the section could be based, the character of the demesne land would be gone, and they would have to consider the mansion house and the land as if it was an ordinary farm. In that case the whole question that would arise would be whether the land was of more value than the house, or the house of more value than the land.

Mr. T. M. HEALY was understood to object to the Amendment, on the ground that undue advantage was being sought by it for demesne lands in the interests of the landlords. The Government had put down an Amendment which was really a concession to the landlords, and the only thanks they received for doing so was that the representatives of the landlords had plied Amendment upon Amendment on the concession.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) said the hon. and learned Gentleman had spoken against the law of every sort of settlement, but he had not addressed a single observation to the Committee against the Amendment.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said it was the intention of the Government to accept the Amendment.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER said the right hon. Gentleman ought to have said so before.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) said he apprehended that the whole object of hon. Members who were arguing this matter from the landlords' point of view was to secure that the demesnes which the landlords wanted to live in should be preserved to them. With that he had much sympathy, but it was monstrous to allow Amendments to be moved for that object ostensibly, and then allow them to be applied to cases where evidently the lands had wholly lost the character of demesnes. The word "demesne" was differently understood in England and Ireland.

In Ireland the Courts had held that practically any good house held by a country gentleman with land about it was a demesne for the purposes of the Land Acts, and the Amendment, if adopted, would interfere with that decision.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he believed those Amendments were raised on the part of the landlords, not because they wanted the mansions to live in, but for exclusive purposes. If not, he would ask whether there would be any objection to insert at the end of the proposed Amendment the words—

"And the Court is satisfied that the mansion house is *bonâ fide* required as a residence for the remainderman."

There ought to be some evidence to show that the mansion house was really required for a residence, and he contended that the addition of the words he had suggested would meet any injustice against the remainderman. He should move the addition of the words presently, and in the circumstances he should expect that hon. Members opposite would support him.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment agreed to.

MR. CARSON moved further to insert in the proposed Amendment, after the word "would," the words "injuriously affect the rights of the remainderman, or." He remarked that this Amendment raised the question of value. Surely, the question of value was not the proper mode to see whether or not the section ought to apply, but rather the question whether the rights of the remainderman were injuriously affected.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR was understood to say that the introduction of the proposed words would have the same effect as if the Government had accepted the words which were a short time ago suggested by his hon. and gallant Friend, and therefore they could not accept the Amendment.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment negatived.

MR. CARSON asked if the right hon. Gentleman would accept his next Amendment—namely, to leave out "diminish the value," and insert "interfere with the enjoyment." He would move that Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY, rising to a point of Order, asked if this Amendment was not the same as the last. They had negatived the words "injuriously affect the rights of the remainderman." He submitted that to interfere with the enjoyment must injuriously affect the right. The greater included the less.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS thought there was a distinction between the two sets of words, though it was a very fine one.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said there was one point which had escaped the hon. and learned Gentleman's attention, namely——

MR. T. M. HEALY said he would not object if the Government would accept his Amendment.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR objected to the hon. and learned Gentleman's proposition.

MR. T. M. HEALY said the Amendment of the right hon. and learned Gentleman must be balanced by something else. His position was that it should be *bonâ fide* shown that all the objections to the fixing of a fair rent went, not to the question of rent, but to the question of the reasonable user of the mansion house. He was not at all opposed to any reasonable protection by landlords of their mansion houses. He should be sorry to think that because a landlord let for two or three years, he would be deprived of his mansion house, but a letting for temporary convenience had always been considered ample protection.

Amendment negatived.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved to add to the words last inserted in the proposed Amendment:—

"and the Court is satisfied that the mansion house is *bonâ fide* required as a residence for the remainderman."

MR. GERALD BALFOUR opposed the Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY did not wish to indulge in the hackneyed complaint of hon. Gentlemen opposite that no Amendments had been accepted, but simply desired to congratulate the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Trinity College that, as a result of prolonged whines and complaints, he had succeeded in obtaining a most valuable and substantial Amendment in the landlord's interest, while the Government had refused everything to counterbalance it.

Amendment negatived.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney) moved to add at the end of Mr. Gerald Balfour's proposed Amendment:—

"Provided that no decision that this section applies to any demesne land, made in the absence of the person entitled on such cesser as aforesaid, shall be binding on him, and that he shall be entitled within the prescribed time after such cesser and notice of the order containing such decision to apply to the Court to rescind such order."

He said the simple object of the Amendment was to prevent a decision being arrived at against the remainderman without the remainderman being present. What he proposed was only the carrying out of the machinery which he was quite sure the Chief Secretary intended.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said the Government were unable to accept the Amendment because it was too wide, and, if accepted, would practically nullify all the provisions of the 7th Clause, because it provided that no order made in the absence of the remainderman should be binding on him; because it also provided that the remainderman should be able to set aside an order that was not binding upon him at all—a most curious provision. It would destroy all finality, and leave the tenant in the position that he would never know when he might be turned out. But the Government were most anxious to secure the rights of the remainderman, and they would be prepared to insert words authorising Land Commissioners to make rules to meet the cases contemplated by the hon. Member.

MR. T. M. HEALY wished to know how a tenant on the demesne was to become acquainted with the landlord's marriage settlements. He had seen settlements which were as voluminous as the family Bible. Half the land in Ireland was under settlement, and the tenants of every landlord who was a limited owner would be affected by this Amendment.

MR. MAURICE HEALY wished to point out that it was already provided by Statute that the Court could direct that any person having an interest in the property should be served with notice of the proceedings, and that such persons should have such rights with regard to appearances as if he were the party originally served. Surely it could be assumed that the Court would do its business.

MR. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) asked whether the Attorney General intended that it should be incumbent on the Land Commission to make rules forcing the tenants to serve notice on every remainderman. In some cases there might be 30 or 40 remaindermen. He objected to this proposed importation of the luxury of Chancery practice. It was out of place. He could not imagine a provision more likely to cause expenditure in solicitors' fees, and it would meet with strenuous opposition. In cases where a tenant applied to have his rent fixed, and no obligation was taken by the landlord on the ground that he was a limited owner, did the right hon. Gentleman propose that these notices must be served? In cases of that kind the tenants might get his fair rent fixed without suspecting that the owner had a limited interest. If notices could be dispensed with in those cases, why should they not be dispensed with in those cases where the tenant had been informed that the owner was a limited owner? It should be left to the Land Commission to say that notice must be given in cases where injustice would result if it were not given.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS suggested that before discussing further the proposal of the Attorney General for Ireland, it would be well to dispose of the Amendment actually before the Committee.

MR. CARSON contended that some words ought to be introduced for the purpose of protecting a remainderman who had not had an opportunity of appearing at the hearing which deprived him of the mansion house and demesne. A remainderman who had not had notice should have a right to have the question investigated when he came into the property. It should be borne in mind that up to this time lettings by a tenant for life had not been binding on the remainderman, and therefore there had been no necessity for insisting upon his being protected in this way.

**MR. T. M. HEALY** said that when the Act of 1881 was passed it was intended that the Measure should apply to tenants for life. That construction was put upon the Bill by Lord Cairns, who thought it reasonable that the remainder-man should be bound by a fixed fair rent. What he thought unreasonable was that the head landlord should be saddled with the acts of the middleman. Lord Cairns moved an Amendment carrying out his views, and the House of Lords agreed to it, but when the Bill returned to the House of Commons, the Government determined to keep Section 15 of the Bill as it originally stood, on the ground that in that form it covered both the case of the tenant for life, and the case of the middleman, and no man except an Irish Judge would think that it did not.

**MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON** said that his object was that no arrangement binding a remainderman should be made behind his back. However, after what the Attorney General had said, he would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**MR. CARSON** moved to add to the proposed Amendment, after the words last inserted :—

> "Provided always that when the landlord is a limited owner, or mortgagor, or mortgagee in possession, no order shall be made without notice to the person entitled on such cesser."

**MR. J. J. CLANCY** said that the assumption underlying both this Amendment and its predecessor, seemed to be that the present race of Irish landlords were such a parcel of rogues that the remainderman must be protected against their acts.

**MR. MAURICE HEALY** expressed the opinion that this Amendment would make it impossible to administer the Act in a great many cases. Let them consider the case of a marriage settlement, under which a remainder was given to a man's eldest son. A long time might elapse before that son came into existence, and the effect of this Amendment would be that the tenants of the tenant for life would be kept out of Court until after the birth of the son.

**MR. CARSON** maintained that under the rules of Court no difficulty ought to arise in administering the Act. When settled property was being dealt with, if the remainder-man could not be found, the Court would appoint somebody to represent him. The Land Commissioners were to have power to make rules to carry out the Amendment which he proposed. Hon. Members opposite seemed to think that with regard to the Land Court the only matter to be considered was how to transfer the landlord's whole interest to the tenant in the easiest possible terms ; but as long as any rights of property were left to the landlords they ought to be protected in the ordinary way.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND** said that he was inclined to accept the Amendment if the right hon. Member would consent to the insertion after "order" of the words "to fix a fair rent for the first time." It was not desirable to fix a fair rent on a man's land in his absence, and it was desirable that an order should be final and binding on all parties. Therefore, when an application was to be made, persons representing those entitled in remainder ought to have notice. This Amendment provided for such notice. It would be the bounden duty of the Court, when they found a provision of this character dealing with demesne lands, and lands in possession of a mortgagee or mortgagor, to ascertain for themselves whether the man was the absolute or only the limited owner before they made another order.

**MR. T. M. HEALY** said he could hardly believe the Government were serious or were acting *bonâ fide* in this matter. They were accepting an Amendment which absolutely rendered nugatory the entire clause. The words "demesne lands" had been very skilfully brought in, but the Amendment did not touch merely demesne lands. The tenant in County Mayo or Donegal, who did not perhaps know a word of English, and had never heard of a settlement, when he served a notice to fix a fair rent was not to get his fair rent unless he had an investigation of the title—he must inquire into the title of his landlord, and find out whether the lands were in settlement or not. The Amendment did not provide for the trustees of the settlement being served, and it would affect half the tenants in Ireland. Of the 600,000 Irish agricultural tenants this Amendment hit 300,000, because half the land of Ireland was under settlement. Furthermore, this was being done without there being any suggestion of a grievance. The law had been carried on for 15 years, and where was the remainderman who had been hit? There was only one such case, and he would only have to read to them the comic history of the settlement made by the landlord in that case to show them that there was no grievance. This Amendment was drawn so as to do the tenant most damage. He protested against the Amendment, which he believed had been accepted unthinkingly, and he hoped the Government would, on consideration, see their way to withdraw their assent to it.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR thought the hon. and learned Member was mistaken as to the number of tenants who would be affected by this provision. Surely it was a very exaggerated statement that half the tenants in Ireland would be deprived of their tenancy on such terms that when the life of a limited owner came to an end their right to have a fair rent fixed would also come to an end.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I did not say that. I said that half the lands in Ireland were under settlement.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said his object was to show that the hon. and learned Member was entirely wrong in imagining that such a very large number of tenants would be affected. As regarded the practical difficulties, not being a lawyer he could not appreciate them, but he was advised that there would not be the enormous difficulty that was suggested.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said a more insidious Amendment had never been proposed. The late Mr. Wentworth, the Secretary to the Land Commission, had said that every tenant who happened through his own misfortune, or accident, to be the tenant of land under settlement, was surrounded by a ring fence of legal objections to get his legal rights. In Ireland disputed titles were very common, and it was a cruel thing that when a man went to the Court to get a fair rent fixed, he should have to take steps to settle the landlord's right.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND was understood to say that, under the Bill, the Land Commission would have power to nominate someone to represent the necessary interests.

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs) thought it must be clear that, if he might say so without disrespect, the Government had slipped into the acceptance of this Amendment without a very full acquaintance with its effect. This clause was, in substance, the same clause that was in the Bill of last year, and he felt that the acceptance of this Amendment would defeat the whole object with which the clause was conceived last year, and, he supposed, the object of the present clause also. He suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should withdraw his assent to the Amendment, for the time at all events.

MR. CARSON said that at a very early stage of the discussion upon this Amendment the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Attorney General for Ireland had intimated that he was going to accept it. After all, what did the Amendment come to. It merely proposed that in the case of tenants for life and other limited owners the tenants of holdings under them should not be entitled to go into the Land Court and have judicial rents fixed unless notice were given to the remaindermen. It would not be just that, in the case of large demesnes of 300 and 400 acres, the tenants for life should be entitled to undemesne the property by cutting it up into holdings and allowing judicial rents to be fixed for those holdings without notice to those who were entitled to the property in remainder. He hoped that the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Attorney General for Ireland would accept the Amendment, which proposed to prevent such injustice being done to the remaindermen.

MR. KNOX said that if the Amendment were accepted the Land Commissioners would have to make inquiries into the title of every holding with regard to which they were asked to fix a fair rent, with the result that every owner would have to disclose his title to his property to the Court and to the public. It would be very hard upon the landowner that he should have to make that disclosure, but it would be still harder upon the tenant who was seeking to have a fair rent fixed if he was compelled to wait for the rent to be fixed until the title of his landlord to his property had been investigated. ["Hear, hear!"] He would ask the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Attorney General for Ireland not to accept the Amendment then, but to reconsider the whole question, and bring up a fresh Amendment on another occasion. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that the number of tenants who would be affected by the Amendment was not very large, although, undoubtedly, they were not unimportant. Unless the Amendment were adopted the remaindermen would be placed at the mercy of the limited owners. In his view the Amendment would not deprive the tenant of any privilege which he already possessed, and would not occasion any delay or expense to him. There were still some 200,000 tenants in Ireland who had not gone into the Court, and a proportion of those tenants knew that, under the existing law, if they did go into Court they would do so under the possibility of having the penalty hanging over their heads of having the proceedings set aside on the ground that their landlord was only a limited owner. The clause as proposed to be amended would confer upon such tenants the right to go into Court and have a fair rent fixed, subject to their giving notice to the remaindermen. In his opinion, this would confer a new boon upon the tenants, although, no doubt, it would throw an extra responsibility upon the Land Commissioners. Unless the Amendment were adopted, permanent injury might be done to the remaindermen. ["Hear, hear!"]

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) confessed that the proviso which had now been accepted by the Government appeared to neutralise the value of the clause. In the first place, the right hon. Gentleman quite underestimated the number of tenants who might be affected by it. There were an enormous number of present tenants who had never come into the Land Court at all, but had kept out of it for one reason or another; and he made that assertion from tolerable experience and knowledge of the country, and of the working of the Act. As was well known, the majority of Irish properties were in strict settlement, and of the remainder the vast majority were mortgaged. Under the Act of 1881 there was no distinction made between tenants under limited owners and under mortgagors, and others not capable of creating a legal estate; but the judges, who had to deal with these cases from a very technical standpoint, had in one or two cases decided that, if the tenancy was created by a tenant for life or mortgagor in possession, such tenant was deprived of the benefit of the Act. The very object of the clause was to obviate that, and that was the object with which a similar clause was introduced in the Bill which was read a Second time last year. The clause as it stood up to this was a perfectly fair and reasonable one. It enabled the Court to get rid of the technical rule he had described, and against which the Act had always shown an inclination to struggle. It enabled the Court to get rid of that rule when they found that no damage was really done to the landlord by reason merely of the fact of the estate being in settlement. This proviso took away the whole of that benefit. The moment the unfortunate tenant came before the Court, the Commissioners would ask the landlord or the representative of the landlord: Are you a limited owner, or are you a mortgagor? The answer would be: "I am"—one or either. What was the consequence? The consequence would be that the hands of the court would be tied. With this proviso they might as well expunge Section 7 from the Bill altogether.

MR. T. M. HEALY, having cited the case of "Jones *v.* Aylward," said that, according to what the First Lord proposed, Parliament would be sacrificing the interest of the tenant for life in order to help the remainderman, because, if there was one principle of English law more deeply rooted than another it was that a man was entitled not to show his title and have it tattered and torn before his eyes. Here, in order to benefit the remainderman, the tenant would have to ask his landlord in his originating notice: "Are you a tenant for life?" and the landlord, who had hitherto had the credit of being the owner in fee simple, would have to expose to the world the fact that he was only a limited owner. He called that sacrificing the interest of the man in possession for the interest of a man who had yet to come into the estate.

And suppose the landlord stated what was false in order to puzzle and bewilder the tenant, was there to be a system of fines and penalties to meet such perjury? He did not blame the Government, but the fact was they were plunged in a serbonian bog. It would be better to ask the right hon. and learned Gentleman to withdraw the Amendment.

Mr. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) thought that in accepting this Amendment the Government were taking out the meaning of the clause which, as it stood, appeared to be perfectly reasonable. In dealing with the law of settlement in this country they had endeavoured to give more and more power to the tenant for life, and to assume that his *bonâ fide* actions were in the interest of the estate, and that it was for the public good to allow him a reasonably free hand in dealing with the affairs of the estate. The Amendment was in no way limited to the question of demesne land, but it covered all lands in the hands of limited owners where a fair rent was not already fixed.

Mr. DILLON said that where the Court under this proviso was in ignorance of the fact that it was dealing with the estate of a limited owner and made an order, the tenant might have his fair-rent tenure broken, and that he had no fair rent at all. The Attorney General for Ireland should make it quite clear that this proviso would not in some respects make the law worse than it was before.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said that after what had passed everyone had come to a general agreement as to the principles on which they ought to work. They were all agreed that the interests of the remainderman should be protected; they were all agreed that the tenant should not be put to the expense or trouble, and that they should not throw on ignorant peasants a laborious investigation of title. They were all agreed, also, that the responsibility and cost should be borne by the Court; and, lastly, they were agreed that if an error be made by the Court as between the parties, the loss should not fall on the tenant. If the Amendment of his right hon. Friend did not carry out that object there would be no difficulty in introducing words.

*Mr. T. M. Healy.*

Mr. T. HARRINGTON suggested that public notice or advertisement should be given to those interested in the land.

Mr. CARSON demurred to the interpretation made by the Leader of the House. His right hon. Friend stated that, if the Court made a mistake in not giving notice to the remainderman, the remainderman was to suffer.

Mr. DILLON: We understood him to say that the tenant was not to suffer.

Mr. CARSON said that the court might or might not give notice. If it did give notice the remainderman was bound, and if it did not give notice he was also to be bound. He did not accept this view, put forward by the Leader of the House, as a just one.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR was understood to disclaim his acceptance of the interpretation of the Amendment put upon it by the right hon. Gentleman, and to say that he did not accept it in the sense which had been indicated.

Mr. CARSON wanted to know whether his right hon. Friend was going back on his acceptance of the Amendment. The discussion showed that, if one only talked long enough on any Amendment, and kept the thing going for a sufficient time, everything would be given up by the Government. He would really like to know whether his right hon. Friend really meant when he said that he accepted the Amendment—which had been on the Paper for three weeks, and had neither been withdrawn nor altered in the time—providing that no order was to be made without notice; still if the order was made without notice it was to be binding. It would be much better if the right hon. Gentleman said that he was sorry he had ever accepted the Amendment; but to say that he accepted it, believing it to mean nothing, was really almost trifling with the House, and leading to lengthened discussions which, if the present view of the Chief Secretary had been stated before, might have been obviated.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said that he could not help regretting the line which his right hon. Friend had taken in this matter. ["Hear, hear!"] Whether the interpretation of the Chief Secretary was a reasonable one or not he would not now dispute, but he was sure that when his right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary stated that, his view of any question was such as had been indicated, no one would be disposed to cast doubt upon it. When the right hon. Gentleman said that, in consequence of a misunderstanding, or in consequence of the views taken of the Amendment, it had lost its value, he was surely going beyond anything which the facts of the case warranted. [*Cheers.*] Whether or not it might be good for the owners of land in Ireland that the Amendment should be accepted he could not judge, but that the clause as it was amended in the sense he had described gave a security to the remainderman which, without the Amendment, the remainderman would not have, seemed to be obvious on the face of the words; and he could not understand the right hon. Gentleman taking the view he had taken and expressing it with the trenchant hostility which characterised his remarks.

MR. KNOX said that, in order to carry out the intention of the Government, he would move to insert that—

"No order to fix a fair rent for the first time shall be made without the Land Commission giving the prescribed notice."

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: The Amendment of the hon. Member would not be in order. The Amendment has already been amended beyond the point at which the hon. Member seeks to amend it. We have got down to the words "no order to fix a fair rent for the first time," therefore, any Amendment must come in after those words.

MR. KNOX: I shall move it in a different form—namely, after the words "no order to fix a fair rent for the first time," to insert the words "shall be made without the Land Commission giving the prescribed notice."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said the Government would accept the Amendment of the hon. Member.

Amendment, as amended by the addition of these words, agreed to.

MR. CARSON moved, after the word "accordingly," at the end of the Clause, to add:—

"Provided always, that when the landlord is a limited owner or mortgagor or mortgagee in possession, no order shall be made without notic to the person entitled on such cesser."

Amendment agreed to; Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8,—

TENANCY NOT INVALIDATED BY REASON OF SUBLETTING BY LANDLORD.

A contract of tenancy entered into, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, by a landlord in violation, either of the Act of the seventh year of the reign of King George the Fourth, chapter twenty-nine, intituled "An Act to amend the law of Ireland "respecting the assignment and subletting of lands and tenements," or of an agreement against subletting in his lease, shall not as between him and the tenant holding under such contract be, or be deemed to have been, void or voidable, and a superior landlord shall be deemed to have expressed a sufficient consent, in the manner in which the consent is required by law to be expressed to a subletting made in violation of such Act or agreement, unless within a reasonable time after the subletting came to the knowledge of himself, or his agent, he served on the lessee or sub-tenant notice of his dissent from the subletting, or instituted a proceeding against the lessee founded upon the said violation.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9,—

DETERMINATION OF ESTATE OF IMMEDIATE LANDLORD.

(1.) Where a superior landlord recovers against an immediate landlord a judgment in ejectment for nonpayment of the rent of a holding, or of lands including a holding, the estate of the immediate landlord shall be deemed to be determined within the meaning of section fifteen of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, without prejudice to his right to redeem his interest.

(2.) Where the nonpayment was not due to the nonpayment of rent by the tenant of the holding, such judgment shall not be executed against the tenant, and the tenancy of the holding shall not be affected, except that the superior landlord shall stand in the relation of immediate landlord to the tenant, and may proceed accordingly for the r ecovery of all rent due from the tenant to the immediate landlord, but (except in the case of fraud or collusion or a letting at a gross under value) not for the recovery of the rent due to the superior from the immediate landlord. If the amount recovered by the superior landlord from the tenant equals or exceeds the amount due to him from the immediate landlord, the interest of the immediate landlord shall not be deemed to have been redeemed, but the superior landlord shall pay the excess to the immediate landlord, after deducting any amount due for costs.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The first Amendment standing in the name of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Dublin University—to omit Sub-section (1)—I do not think is properly in order, because if the 1st Sub-section of this clause were to be omitted, the 2nd Sub-section as it stands would not read. His objection is to the clause as a whole, and the proper way to raise it is when the Question is put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

MR. CARSON moved at the end of Sub-section (1) after the word "interest," to insert the words:—

> "as if a decree or a writ of *habeas facias possessionem* had been executed."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND intimated that the Government would accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CARSON moved in Sub-section (2) to omit the words "where the non-payment was not due to the non-payment of rent by the tenant of the holding," and to insert instead thereof the words:—

> "The payment by the tenant of the holding of the amount due to the landlord under such judgment shall not operate to redeem the interest of the immediate landlord, and upon such payment, but subject to such right of redemption as aforesaid."

This Amendment, he remarked, practically brought the whole question of Clause 9 under discussion, and, so far as he was concerned, it was not only the only Amendment which he should move as regarded Clause 9, with a view to explaining what the clause meant, but—except as regarded the postponed Clause 4—it would be the only Amendment he should have to move which in any way seriously affected the Bill. The present Amendment raised the question whether in the case of ejectment for non-payment of rent in Ireland where there were sub-tenants, the process of ejectment for non-payment of rent was to be abolished; because that was practically what the sub-section came to. He remembered last year, when this very clause was proposed in the Bill of the right hon. Member for Montrose, he (Mr. Carson) was put up to reply for the Chief Secretary, when he stated that he considered the clause one of the revolutionary clauses of the Bill. He noticed that the Chief Secretary, in copying this clause from the Bill of the late Chief Secretary, said that this was a matter upon which both sides were entirely agreed. He did not know why the Chief Secretary had given the go-by to what was stated by him (Mr. Carson) a year ago on behalf of the Government, except, perhaps, that one's ideas of property probably altered according as one found one's self on one side of the House or the other. He thought the provisions of this clause were vastly more important as regarded the whole relation of landlord and tenant, than those of any other clause in the Bill. The question of improvements was insignificant as compared with the question of the administration of the Act. He thought he was not going too far when he stated that the one method which the landlord had under the law of enforcing a contract with a tenant was ejectment for non-payment of rent. He did not suppose that in 99 cases out of 100 the landlords intended to obtain personal judgment, which was always futile, because they would find, if they came to realise, that the stock had been removed and that it was impossible for the Sheriff to levy any execution. The one remedy, therefore, which the landlord had had during many years of disturbance in Ireland, was this remedy of ejectment for non-payment of rent, and if that was to be taken away and infringed upon, he could not see that it would be possible for the landlord in future, in the cases to which this section applied, in the event of any unpleasantness arising with his tenant, to insist upon the carrying out of the obligations of the contract between landlord and tenant at all. The section proposed that where there were sub-tenants the landlord, if he got a decree in ejectment proceedings, should not be able to execute his judgment so as to get possession of the land as against the sub-tenants. Now what would it come to? It came to this. Supposing a tenant who had been a sub-tenant said "I won't pay" the landlord must wait for a year before he could bring his action for ejectment for non-payment, but this section said "having got your judgment you cannot exercise it." In other words the landlord might get rid of the middleman but he could not get his land: he could get neither his land nor his money. Was that what the Goverment meant by this section? He at once conceded that there were matters to which the tenant had a right. Where there was a middleman he thought that it was a hard case that the sub-tenant, who was willing to hold on in the event of the middleman being displaced, should not be able to do so without again setting up the interest of the middleman. He urged that the immediate relations should be with the landlord and not with the middleman, and in the event of the latter being dispossessed the sub-tenants should become the tenants of the superior landlord. But that was not what the section proposed. The section said in plain terms that the superior landlord, even if there was a year's rent due, was not to have either his rent or his land as an alternative. He knew there were provisions made and that the superior landlord might proceed to recover any arrears of rent due by the sub-tenant to the middleman, but it would be throwing good money after bad if the landlord were to proceed to search out from the sub-tenants what was the amount of rent they owed to the middleman and then proceed against either of them. Was that the position in which the Irish landlord should be left? How could they confront such a combination as the Plan of Campaign if this section were enforced. What he had said in Opposition he repeated now, that this was a revolutionary proposal and destructive of the interest of the landlord. He was not going into various other matters, but the sole object of his Amendment was to prevent what would be a glaring injustice. This Amendment raised the whole question of ejectment for non-payment of rent, and he thought the Government ought to hesitate before they passed the section as it stood.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he did not profess to understand the exact effect of the Amendment, but he was bound to say that he had thought that the clause was non-contentious. ["Hear, hear!"] Surely these sub-tenants were in no way to blame for the default of the middleman. Were they to proceed against these sub-tenants for a debt due to the landlord, not by them, but by some one else? He thought that the Committee would agreed with him that the Government, in the Bill, had adopted nothing abnormal or extraordinary in regard to this clause. ["Hear, hear!"]

COLONEL SAUNDERSON put this case before the Committee. He had a farm, and he let it to a tenant under the condition that he paid his rent. This tenant, without his knowledge, sub-let the land to other tenants. The landlord of course, had his remedy of ejecting his tenant for running against the law as to sub-letting. But what what would happen if he took that course? The whole Radical Party would be in arms. They would send deputations to Ireland, and right hon. Gentlemen would come down to that House and weep tears over the awful sight of evictions taking place in Ireland owing to the merciless action of the landlords turning out these inoffensive persons. Therefore, in numberless cases landlords in Ireland had not proceeded to the extreme course of eviction. But now what was to happen to him as the landlord? First of all he would be fined one year's rent, why he did not know, but that was the clause so far as he understood it. Then he should find himself confronted by a number of sub-tenants. He could not get rent from the middleman because he had levanted under this clause, if it passed into law; the new tenants who came upon the landlord without his leave, had paid him no rent, and he could not recover from them. They asked for a fair rent to be fixed. He had got to wait until that process had taken place, and then, when the fair rent was fixed, if they refused to pay him, what was he to do? He would probably have a couple of years to wait, and probably have to engage in a number of lawsuits. If the middleman disappeared, and if the sub-tenants were to become tenants of his, under a fair rent, it would be only in conformity with the most elementary principles of justice that his rent should be paid. He could not conceive why the Government should object to put in their Bill, if these new tenants were to remain on the land and were to come in at a fair rent, the proposal of his right hon. Friend. He hoped the Government would consider the matter again, and not put them in the difficulty of asking the House to divide.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said the Government were unable to accept the Amendment of his right hon. Friend, for the reason that it would defeat altogether the policy which was embodied first in the 15th section of the Act of 1881. [*Irish Nationalist cheers.*] His hon. and gallant Friend objected to two things in this clause. First, he objected to tenants being thrust upon him; and next, he objected to that being done at what might be a pecuniary loss to himself. As to the first point, he would remind his hon. and gallant Friend that this clause was analogous to Clause 15 of the Act of 1881, which provided that, no matter whether a middleman had broken his lease or not, no matter whether he had discharged any of the duties of his tenancy or not, and no matter whether he had paid any rent or not, if his title expired either by fluxion of time or by notice to quit, the sub-tenants were thrust upon the landlord, who was not to be heard to say that he had suffered any pecuniary loss from the conduct of the middleman. His hon. and gallant Friend said that the sub-tenants might inflict pecuniary loss upon him. Possibly that might be so—[*cheers from below the Ministerial Gangway*]—just as he would whenever he allowed a tenant to run into arrear and and he had to evict him. But he would have a much greater chance of getting his rent from the sub-tenant than he would have if there was no one in possession at all but the middleman. He would have the sub-tenant to look to, who would be obliged to pay him anything he owed to the middleman. He dared say it was possible that under the operation of this clause some pecuniary loss might be inflicted upon his hon. and gallant Friend. But he would put a case of even greater hardship and greater injustice. That was a case where the sub-tenants had paid up to the middleman every shilling they owed, and yet, because the middleman had fallen into arrear, under the law, as it stood at present, the head landlord could bring an ejectment, determine all their tenancies, and turn both them and the middleman out. That was a great injustice and hardship, and they wished to guard against it. [*Nationalist cheers.*] This clause gave the landlord the right to sue for any money that was due from the sub-tenants to the middleman and recover it.

MR. CARSON: How is the head landlord to find it out?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said he should have no difficulty in finding that out. While the middleman was running into arrear the head landlord could, if he liked, serve notice on the sub-tenants to pay their rent. Nothing was easier in the world than to do that before he took his ejectment, and to ascertain whether, in point of fact, they had paid rent to the middleman or not. He did not say that would enable him to bring ejectment against the sub-tenants. He thought it would be very wrong if it did; but it provided, as far as possible, against pecuniary loss falling upon the landlord. [*Nationalist cheers.*]

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) would like to submit a concrete case to the Attorney General for Ireland. Suppose there was a middleman and a number of sub-tenants. The sub-tenants, say, had paid up to the 1st of November. On the 1st of May the middleman was ejected. The superior landlord then came in as the immediate landlord of those tenants. They owed six months' rent then, and he would ask the Attorney General whether it would or would not be the case that nearly two years must elapse before the immediate landlord could get the rent?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that, as he understood, the head landlord came in on the 1st of May, and there was then due from the sub-tenants half a year's rent. He could sue for that the next day, but he could not bring an ejectment for non-payment of rent until the May following. He must wait until a year's rent was due to himself.

*SIR J. COLOMB asked whether he was to understand that assuming that a half-year's rent was due on the 1st of May 1896, the landlord could do nothing whatever until May 1897, as far as ejectment was concerned.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND: Yes.

*SIR J. COLOMB said that the rent due on the 1st of May 1897, was never paid till November 1897, so that there was really two years—from November 1895 to November 1897—before the landlord could eject.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said the landlord could proceed in the ordinary way by civil bill, but he could not eject until 12 months' rent was owing to himself as landlord from the tenant.

Amendment negatived.

A further Amendment stood on the Paper in the name of Mr. CARSON, and the CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS called upon the hon. and learned Gentleman, when ——

MR. CARSON said he did not intend to move the next or any other Amendment. It was quite apparent that no Amendments of any importance would be accepted, but if they were accepted the Government went back upon them. Consequently, he should not move any further Amendments. [The hon. Gentleman then left the House amidst Nationalist laughter.]

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL moved to omit the words—

("except in the case of fraud or collusion or of letting at a gross under-value.")

The words he proposed to omit were, he thought, quite unnecessary, and, moreover, would prove unreasonable to the under tenants. The words did not occur in the Bill brought in and read a Second time last year, and on reflection he thought the Chief Secretary would see that they would operate unjustly and unreasonably, because they would give an altogether new right to the superior landlord against the occupying tenant which he did not now enjoy at common law. The whole of the clause was levelled against the middleman who had always proved a fruitful source of trouble and misfortune in Ireland. At no stage of the law had the superior landlord any personal remedy against the occupying tenant under the middleman. The words he wished to omit would create a right which did not previously exist, and their retention would lead to long and expensive litigation, because, the Court would have to go into the question whether there was fraud or collusion, or a letting at a gross under-value between the middleman and the under tenant. If any of these things existed the superior landlord would be entitled to proceed against the under tenant to recover the rent, thus giving him a right which he did not now possess at common law. This was intended to be a remedial Bill in the interest of the tenants, but he thought it would be unreasonable to keep in words which would involve the unfortunate occupying tenant in litigation.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND opposed the Amendment. It would, he said, be undesirable to take away the right given by the Bill. The objection taken by his hon. and learned friend was really unnecessary, as no one would be found to suffer by the retention of the words.

Amendment negatived.

On the Motion "That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill,"

MR. T. M. HEALY pointed out that the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for the University of Dublin (Mr. Carson), had not another Amendment on the Paper when he left the House. They had now passed the tenure clauses of the Bill, and the hon. and learned Gentleman had gone out of the House, having done his work, and having done it effectively.

*SIR J. COLOMB said it was very undesirable that the tenant should be allowed to get into arrears, and that the immediate landlord in this case should be comparatively powerless in the matter. Would the right hon. Gentleman consider the question between now and Report, with the view, if possible, of amending the Bill in the way he had previously suggested?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR promised to give the matter his consideration.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 10,—

AMENDMENT OF 54 & 55 VICT. C. 57, AS TO LONG LEASES AND FEE FARM GRANTS.

The Redemption of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1891, shall be amended as follows:—

(a.) The provisions of the Land Law Acts and this Act with respect to improvements shall apply, notwithstanding that the lessee or grantee would not, on quitting his holding, be entitled by reason of his being such lessee or grantee to claim compensation for improvements under the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act 1870.

(b,) A person shall be a lessee or a grantee under a fee farm grant within the meaning of the said Acts notwithstanding that the instrument under which he holds though purporting to create the relation of landlord and tenant, is dated before the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and by reason of its date does not create the relation of landlord and tenant between him and the person to whom money is payable thereunder in respect of the holding, and that person shall be a lessor or grantor in like manner as if the instrument were executed on or after the above-mentioned day.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 11,—

AMENDMENT OF 50 & 51 VICT. C. 33. S. 1, AS TO TIME FOR APPLICATIONS BY LEASEHOLDERS.

Applications under section one of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, may be made at any time.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

After the usual interval, Mr. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) took the Chair.

Clause 12,—

EJECTMENTS FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT IN CASE OF HOLDINGS UNDER LAND LAW ACTS.

Where an ejectment is brought for the nonpayment of the rent of a holding to which the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act apply, and the rent in arrear exceeds *two years'* rent, the tenant may pay, tender, deposit, or lodge, under sections sixty to seventy-one of the Landlord and Tenant Law Amendment Act (Ireland) 1860, the sum of *two years'* rent instead of the sums therein respectively required to be paid, tendered, deposited, or lodged, and upon such tender, payment, deposit, or lodgment the tenant shall be in the same position under those sections as if two years' rent were the sum claimed; and the balance of the rent then due shall remain a debt due by the tenant to the landlord, but shall not be recovered by ejectment for nonpayment of rent or distress.

**MR. MAURICE HEALY** moved to leave out the words "Where an," and to insert instead thereof the words "in the case of any."

Amendment agreed to.

**MR. MAURICE HEALY** moved, in the same line, to leave out the word "is."

Amendment agreed to.

**MR. MAURICE HEALY** moved to leave out the word "and" before the words "the rent in arrear," and to insert instead thereof the word "where."

Amendment agreed to.

**MR. J. JORDAN** (Fermanagh, S.) moved to leave out all the words after the words "the sum claimed." He said that his object was to make the payment of a two-years' rent a final discharge of the landlord's claim up to that date. He thought two years' payment was a good payment in the landlord's interest on two grounds—(1) that the tenants in arrear were generally too highly rented, and he held that two years' payment of a high rent was equal to three years' payment of a fair rent, and probably a great deal more; and (2) because the landlord would get the bulk sum of two years' high or rack rent in his hands at once, instead of in driblets of half-yearly payments. He contended that it would be cruelty to a tenant to weight him still further by hanging this millstone of the balance of debt round his neck.

**MR. GERALD BALFOUR** said that he had to suggest to the hon. Member who had moved the Amendment that he should withdraw it for the present, in order that the principle it involved might be more conveniently discussed on a subsequent Amendment. If the present Amendment were adopted, the landlord, after receiving the two years' arrears of rent, would be still able to bring a civil action against the tenant for the purpose of recovering the balance of the arrears of rent.

**MR. DILLON** said that he hoped that the hon. Member would withdraw his Amendment on the ground put forward by the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

**MR. JORDAN** said that, after the appeal that had been made to him by the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland and by his hon. Friend the Member for East Mayo, he begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): moved an Amendment which would have the effect of relieving the tenant in arrear from all liability on payment of two years' rent.

Mr. DILLON said that the object of the clause was to deal with the evil, that it was admitted existed in Ireland, which arose out of the landlords allowing large arrears of rent to accumulate and hang over the heads of their tenants. The fact was that the landlords never expected the rents they nominally exacted to be paid. In good seasons they compelled the tenants to pay the rack rents, but in bad seasons they allowed the rents to fall into arrear, and they kept these arrears hanging over the heads of the tenants so as to keep them completely in their power. If this clause had any object at all, which he somewhat doubted, it was to free the tenants from this millstone round their necks. He wished to impress upon the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary that the clause as it stood would have no effect whatever in favour of the tenants, in fact it would prove a trap to the smaller tenants. He himself knew cases in which the landlord had allowed 13 years' rent in arrear to accumulate.

Colonel WARING (Down, N.): No, no.

Mr. DILLON said that he held the proof in his hands. The object of the clause was to enable the tenant to free himself from the load of debt that hung over him on his paying two years' rack rent, which was equivalent to three years' fair rent. It would be most unfair to the tenant to allow the landlord to receive two years' arrears of rent and then to take civil proceedings that would enable him to adopt the cruel and unjust course of selling up the tenant's interest in the holding. ["Hear, hear!"] The landlords constantly resorted to that method of recovering the arrears of rent. [*Cries of* "No."]

Colonel WARING: It is not the landlord who sells the tenant's interest in his holding, it is the tradesman.

Mr. DILLON said that the course was pursued much more frequently by the landlords than by the tradesmen. The tradesman lived among the people and by the people, and therefore it was most unlikely that he would sell out the tenant's interest in his holding. If the clause remained as it stood, the landlord, after having received two years' arrears of rent, might take civil proceedings against the unhappy tenant, and sell out his interest in his holding. [*Cries of* "No."] He did not know what was done in the north of Ireland, but he knew what was done in the south. The course which the landlords took in the south of Ireland was more cruel even than bringing actions of ejectment against their tenants for the non-payment of rent.

Colonel WARING said the hon. Member's knowledge of Ireland was confined to one part of the country. He confessed that he did not know what happened in the North, but he himself knew that there the landlords did not resort to the measures he had spoken of.

Mr. DILLON: I know a great deal more about Ireland generally than the hon. and gallant Gentleman does.

Colonel WARING: By your own admission you do not know much about the North.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: It is a small country, anyhow.

Mr. DILLON said no more cruel or oppressive method of recovering rent could be adopted than that of civil bill process or a writ for ejectment. But it was nothing less than a mockery to put into the Bill a clause dealing with the evil of arrears when relief was simply given from recovery by civil bill process and not from the process of recovery by writ or decree for the amount due.

Mr. T. HARRINGTON submitted that the Amendment was in the interests of landlord and tenant alike. Nothing was more calculated to bring odium upon his class than for the landlord to sue for a long series of arrears. These arrears also caused soreness to fester between the landlords and their tenants. By the adoption of the Amendment all landlords would get ample notice that two years' arrears only would be recoverable, and a service would be done to the indolent, negligent, and spendthrift, who would not be allowed to be more than two years in arrear. The sale of the tenant's interest was quite common in three provinces of Ireland, and prevailed largely in the fourth. The six months for equity of redemption was done away with, the landlord went into court as an ordinary creditor, and sued for the amount of rent due as an ordinary debt, he put the farm up for sale, and it was sold for the amount of rent due and perhaps a little more.

*SIR J. COLOMB reminded the Committee that under the law as it now stood, if the landlord sued for ejectment and more than two years' rent was due, the County Court Judge could say to the landlord—"You should not have allowed this to accumulate. It is too hard on the tenant that he should pay this lump sum altogether. I can enable you to recover only by instalments." Payment by instalments was a great advantage to the tenant. He agreed in preventing as far as possible that overcredit which was the curse and ruin of Ireland, but he was not in favour of dealing with only one class of debts. What was proposed to be applied to landlords' debts should be applied all round.

MR. T. M. HEALY said they could not import into the Bill of the kind affecting rent a question affecting creditors as a whole, who had a remedy that the landlords had not. That, he contended, was a complete answer to the hon. and gallant Member as regarded the ordinary tenant. The Amendment would do the landlord no injustice, and go a long way towards quieting the position of the tenant. It would leave the landlord in possession of all his arrears intact for all purposes except when the similar remedy of ejectment was attempted. The hon. Member for North Down had said that it was not the practice of landlords in Ulster to proceed against their tenants by civil bill decree. Protestant tenants under Protestant landlords got more fair play than Catholic tenants under Protestant landlords, and therefore he accepted the hon. and gallant Gentleman's protest that it was not the practice of his class to proceed against their Protestant tenants as Protestant landlords proceeded against Catholic tenants. But the Amendment was really of a very attenuated character, and might be accepted by the Government without doing any injustice to the landlord.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR agreed that the practice of allowing arrears of rents to grow was a misfortune to both landlord and tenant. But, at the same time it would be a serious thing if Parliament were to take a wet sponge and wipe out debts that were legally due. He therefore adopted an intermediary procedure, and proposed in the clause that while a landlord might recover two years' arrears of rent by an ejectment for non-payment of rent, if he attempted to recover arrears beyond two years he must resort to the methods that were open to the ordinary creditor. The hon. Gentleman the Member for East Mayo thought the clause would be a trap for the tenant—that the tenant would be placed by the clause in a worse position than his position at present. He did not think that would be the case, and the hon. and learned Member for Louth, if he understood the hon. and learned Member aright, seemed to be of the same opinion.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Hear, hear.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: But if it is the view of hon. Gentlemen opposite that the position of the tenant would not be improved by the clause, I will withdraw it.

MR. T. M. HEALY: No, no. I did not say that.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The hon. Member did not say so, but I understood the hon. Member for Mayo to say so.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Everyone acknowledges that the clause would be a valuable one.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that the hon. Member for Mayo's description of the clause as "a trap for the tenant" could only mean that the clause would put the tenant into a worse position. Under the clause, if the tenant at any time paid two years' arrears he could not be proceeded against for any other arrears by the process open to landlords only, and it would not be possible for the landlords to carry the arrears continually forward. The arrears beyond two years would, under this clause, merely be a debt which was recoverable in the same way as any ordinary debt. The Government were not prepared to accept any Amendment which would place the landlord, with regard to those arrears, in a superior or in an inferior position to other creditors.

Mr. DILLON contended that the words "where an ejectment is brought" governed the whole clause. Unless an ejectment was brought, the provisions of the clause did not apply. It simply provided that if the landlord proceeded for the whole debt by ejectment, the tenant could escape by paying two years' arrears. But the landlord had power immediately afterwards, even if the Amendment of the hon. Member for Roscommon were accepted, to recover the remainder of the debt by the ordinary law. He did not say that he would not rather have the clause; but he believed that it would be a trap to many small tenants. They would pay two years' arrears to escape ejectment, and then find themselves face to face with fresh proceedings.

Mr. J. A. RENTOUL (Down, E.) thought that the construction placed on the clause by the hon. Member for East Mayo was perfectly correct. The very day after the tenant had paid two years' arrears to stay ejectment, the landlord might proceed for the rest by County Court summons.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY had thought that this was a point on which even the representatives of the landlords might have urged a compromise. A tenant recently came to him and produced a receipt for a half-year's rent which he had just paid. The receipt had been given for the half-year's rent due March 1884. All that time the tenant had been paying rent and had simply kept this old debt alive. The position was absolutely hopeless. This question of arrears ought to have been dealt with as in the Scottish Crofters Act. The Crofters Commission, when they fixed a fair rent, inquired what arrears were due, and decided how much should be extinguished. He did not think the clause would act as a trap to the tenant, because there was no bait attractive enough to bring him into the trap. The hon. Member had spoken of his experience in the North of Ireland. In the South his own experience was that latterly the process of ejectment for non-payment of rent had largely gone into disuse; this was in consequence of an excellent clause in the Act of 1887 of the Tory Government, by which the costs receivable by the landlord were cut down to the costs which he would get if he proceeded in the ordinary way. He feared that the clause as it was would be of very limited operation, and that it would not confer on the tenants the advantages which he believed the Chief Secretary himself desired.

Colonel WARING said he had been entirely misrepresented by the hon. Member. In the first place he had not the slightest idea of supporting any process by which any unfair exaction of rent should be taken from the tenant. So far as he could recollect, he had only two tenants at present who were two years in arrears, and the clause would not affect him in the least. When he spoke previously he had in his mind other landlords who appeared to be unfairly treated by the proposals which were made. He believed most landlords would be only too proud to get two years down.

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL quite agreed that the landlords would be very well off if they were secured in two years arrears of rent, and, in fact, the acceptance of the Amendment would, in his opinion, be a boon not only to the tenant, but to the landlord. It was a very common practice to carry on from one half-year to another old arrears. When ejectments were brought for non-payment of rent, it was a common practice to endorse the ejectment summons with all the arrears due, which might be 12 years in the case of a lease, and six years in the case of an ordinary tenancy. The Court had no jurisdiction to cut down the arrears, and decree for possession must be given. The effect of that heavy burden on the tenant was that the benefit which the law always contemplated—and even before the Statute a Court of Equity always gave the tenant in ejectment for non-payment the right to redeem by paying up arrears and costs—was completely frustrated, because no tenant could possibly pay up 12, 6, or even four years' arrears of rent. Now, the object of the section was to obviate that, and to say that an ejectment should only be brought in respect of two years' arrears, and the tenant could redeem by the payment of two years' rent. Some wise sages of the law in Ireland had often stated that the best landlord was the landlord who did not allow any heavy arrears of rent to become due; because it hung like a millstone round the tenant's neck. If this Amendment were accepted, that mischief would be obviated, and the tenant would start with a *tabula rasa*—a clean bill between himself and the landlord, than which nothing could conduce more to the happiness and good feeling between the parties.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that there was another objection to the Amendment in addition to that which had been previously stated. It was that if the Amendment was accepted the landlord would be tempted to do exactly what the hon. and learned Gentleman said he would be prevented from doing by the Amendment—namely, seek to recover the rent by an act of ejectment on title. It would not be desirable to give that amount of encouragement to a procedure of that kind; and he was, therefore afraid that while the particular objection to the Amendment was not so strong as he previously believed it to be when he spoke, yet there was an objection equally strong against its acceptance.

Mr. T. M. HEALY argued that in this matter Ireland was entitled to the same treatment as Scotland. He quoted Section 6 of the Crofters Act, and contended that in a limited sense the same change of remedy and incidence of harshness of the existing law should be applied to Ireland.

*Sir J. COLOMB said that there was no analogy between the Crofters Act and the present Bill. The Crofters Act was limited in its operation to a very small area of Scotland, and only to a limited and poor class of the community. This Bill, on the other hand, applied to the whole of Ireland, and to all sections of the community paying and able to pay high rents.

Mr. M. McCARTAN (Down, S.) asked for a promise that at a future stage of the Bill a provision would be inserted making two years' rent irrecoverable. He therefore appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to give some consideration to the suggestion that words should be inserted in the clause which should deal with the matter. He thought he might appeal to the Member for North Down. Before sitting down he thought it only fair to say that knowing something of the business there was no question of cruelty or harshness on the part of the rich landlords. [*Cheers.*] It was not of that class of landlords that they complained.

Mr. T. HARRINGTON disclaimed any idea of preventing landlords asserting their rights, but he wished to call attention to the special cruelty of such a case as this: If a tenant owed a year's rent, say £50, the landlord could come in and seize property worth £500. The tenant in that case was completely at the mercy of the landlord. He contended that they were in this clause leaving open the door to the imposition of great cruelty. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to remedy this defect in the Bill.

Mr. RENTOUL thought the Amendment might be accepted. If the proposal would not affect good landlords, why not apply it to those who would not do their duty? There seemed to be a general agreement on both sides of the House.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR could not accept the Amendment. He believed it would be injurious to the tenant.

Mr. HAYDEN appealed to the right hon. Gentleman, from a long experience to accept the Amendment. Only recently he had known of the case of the imprisonment of a whole family. He knew of cases where the arrears accumulated since the famine years, but where the landlord accepted one year's rent there was no trouble afterwards. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give the matter his favourable consideration.

Mr. DILLON, who was received with protests, said this was an important matter, and he agreed with the Member for North Roscommon. The effect of the Amendment would be to deprive future tenants of all their rights under the Land Act. He therefore joined in the appeal to the Chief Secretary.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said the privilege the landlord had had hitherto of using ejectment for any number of years' rent would be destroyed by the clause. That was a large concession to the tenants. The point raised would be carefully considered, but he could not promise that it should be dealt with on Report.

**MR. HAYDEN** said he was satisfied with this statement, and would withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**MR. MAURICE HEALY** proposed to omit the words "shall remain a debt due by the tenant to the landlord, but," so as to provide that when the tenant had paid two years' rent in respect of arrears the balance of the rent then due should not be recovered by ejectment for non-payment of rent or distress. The hon. Member said this would give the landlord a personal action for rent against a person against whom he had no action before.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND** agreed to accept the Amendment.

**MR. SMITH BARRY** intimated that he would not proceed with his intention to move the addition to the clause of the following words:—

> "This section shall not apply to any rent due before the passing of this Act until the expiration of two years from such passing."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**MR. MAURICE HEALY** moved to add to the clause the following words:—

> "Nor shall the holding be sold or affected by or under any judgment, execution, or proceeding taken in respect of such balance of rent."

**MR. GERALD BALFOUR** remarked that the Government had already considered the general question, and if the right hon. Member would withdraw his Amendment, it should be considered at the same time.

**MR. MAURICE HEALY** asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 12, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 13,—

### PROCEDURE.

### AMENDMENT OF PROCEDURE FOR FIXING JUDICIAL RENT AND FOR RE-HEARING.

(1.) The Land Commission upon an application to them to fix the fair rent for a holding, shall cause the holding to be inspected, in the presence of the parties if they wish to be present, by one assistant commissioner or two assistant commissioners, who on the inspection shall inquire respecting all improvements on the holding and report to the Land Commission—

(*a*) the fair letting value of the holding as between the parties inclusive of the value of all improvements thereon;

(*b*) the improvements made wholly or partly by or at the cost of the tenant required by this Act to be recorded, in respect of which rent cannot be allowed or made payable, the capital value of those improvements, and the deduction from the rent made in respect of the same;

(*c*) the annual sum which should be the fair rent of the holding;

(*d*) the improvements made wholly or partly by or at the cost of the landlord required by this Act to be recorded; and

(*e*) such other matters in relation to the building as may be prescribed.

(2.) A conditional order shall be made, as of course, fixing as the fair rent of the holding the annual sum so reported and unless cause to the contrary is shown as hereinafter mentioned, shall be made absolute by the Land Commission.

(3.) The landlord and tenant respectively may, within the prescribed time after the service of the conditional order, show cause against it, and the Land Commission either may, after giving the parties an opportunity of being heard, make absolute the order, with or without modification, or dismiss the application, or may remit the case for hearing to a sub-commission, of which any assistant commissioner who reported shall not be a member.

(4.) An order making the conditional order absolute shall not be subject to rehearing as respects the question of value.

(5.) Where a case is so remitted to a sub-commission and a person aggrieved by the order of the sub-commission requires the case to be re-heard by the Land Commission, the prescribed assistant commissioner shall certify whether or not any question of law or of mixed law and fact arose in the proceeding, and shall set forth in the certificate the prescribed particulars respecting the case.

(6.) If the certificate states that a question of law or mixed law and fact arose, that question may be heard and determined by the Judicial Commissioner sitting either alone or with one other commissioner, and after such determination, or, if the certificate states that no question of law or mixed law and fact arose, then at any time, the Land Commission may, if they think fit, without hearing the parties, make absolute the order of the sub-commission, with or without modification, or may re-hear the case; but if either the landlord or the tenant requires the case to be re-heard, and lodges the prescribed sum for the costs of the re-hearing, the Land Commission shall re-hear the case.

Under the Order of the House of this date, Clause 13 ceased to be part of the Bill.

Clause 14,—

FIXING OF FAIR RENT FOR THIRTY YEARS VARIABLE WITH REFERENCE TO VARIATION OF PRICES.

(1.) The landlord and tenant of a holding may jointly apply to the Court for an order applying this section to the holding, and (except during the first four years of a statutory term) may so apply whether there is or is not a statutory term current in respect of the holding.

(2.) On such application the Court may by order apply this section to the holding, and fix all or any of the matters following :—

(*a*) the customary products of the holding as defined in this section;

(*b*) if there are more products than one, the relative value of each product as defined in this section; and

(*c*) if an application to fix a fair rent can be made, the fair rent of the holding;

and the court may fix any matters appearing to them to be incidental to or consequential on the fixing of the matters above mentioned, or otherwise to be necessary for the purpose of that fixing; and the Court shall by their order constitute the fair rent so fixed, or where, by reason of a statutory term being current, an application to fix a fair rent cannot be made, the then existing judicial rent to be a variable fair rent, and in the latter case may fix such variation of the then existing judicial rent as is authorised under this section at the end of a quinquennial period.

(3.) All or any of the above matters may, either before or after the application, and before the order is made, be fixed by agreement in writing between the landlord and tenant, or by arbitration in pursuance of such agreement, and, if so fixed, shall be adopted by the order of the Court, and, for the purposes of this section, the fair rent may be so fixed by agreement or arbitration, even though, by reason of a statutory term being current, no application for fixing a fair rent can be made to the Court.

(4.) The provisions of this Act with respect to the fixing by the Land Commission of a fair rent shall, with such necessary modifications as may be prescribed, apply to fixing the matters in this section mentioned other than a variation of any existing judicial rent, and the provisions of this section with respect to varying a variable fair rent at the end of the quinquennial period shall apply to the fixing of such variation.

(5.) Where an order applying this section is made, the statutory term for the tenancy shall be thirty years, and such term and the variable fair rent shall begin from the same gale day from which it would have begun if the application had been an application to fix a fair rent, or where the application is made in the fifth year of an ordinary statutory term, from any later day at which the said fifth year expires, and on the beginning of such statutory term of thirty years any previously-existing statutory term shall be deemed to have expired.

(6.) During the last twelve months of each quinquennial period of a statutory term under this section, either the landlord or the tenant may apply in the prescribed form to the Land Commission to vary the variable fair rent, and thereupon the Land Commission shall determine what variation (if any) ought equitably to be made in the variable rent, having regard—

(*a*) to the gazetted prices hereinafter mentioned of the customary products of the holding, and their relative value, as compared with the gazetted prices for the calendar year in which the judicial rent was fixed; and

(*b*) to the extent to which any variation in such prices may be reasonably held to have affected the fairness of the rent of the holding;

and the rent if varied shall as varied be payable for the residue of the term, reckoning from the end of the quinquennial period, unless and until it is varied upon a like application under this sub-section.

(7.) An order applying this section may, if it is so provided by the application for the order or by any subsequent agreement between the landlord and tenant, direct that at the end of each quinquennial period the variable fair rent shall, without any order of the Land Commission, vary, whether by way of increase or decrease, in proportion to the gazetted price hereinafter mentioned of the customary product of the holding when compared with the gazetted price of such product for the year in which the judicial rent of the holding was fixed, or in such other proportion dependent upon that price as may be fixed by the order; and where there is more than one such customary product, the variation shall depend on the net results of the gazetted prices of all such products, in the proportions of their relative value as fixed by the order, after setting off an increase in the price of one product against any decrease in the price of another.

(8.) A like direction may be given by an order made at the end of any quinquennial period in pursuance of any agreement made between the landlord and the tenant.

(9.) During the last twelve months of each quinquennial period the customary products of a holding and their relative value may be varied prospectively by agreement made between the landlord and the tenant, and recorded with the Land Commission.

(10.) During the last twelve months of a statutory term under this section, an application may be made by the landlord and the tenant jointly to continue under this section, or by either of them to fix a new fair rent for the ordinary statutory term under the Land Law Acts. If no such application is made, this section and the provisions for varying the rent at the end of every quinquennial period which applied to the holding during the statutory term, shall continue to apply to the holding until the end of a quinquennial period during the last twelve months of which such an application has been made to the court as above provided in this Sub-section, and such an application may be made during the last twelve months of any quinquennial period, but at no other time.

(11.) For the purposes of this section the expression "the customary products of a holding," means the agricultural and pastoral products which are usually produced on the holding, or such of them as are to be considered for the purposes of fixing or varying the rent; and "the relative value of a product" means the approximate proportion of value which each product may be considered to contribute to the total value of the customary products of the holding.

(12.) For the purpose of this section the Land Commission shall ascertain, with respect to each province or such other area as they think most suitable, the following prices of what they consider to be the agricultural and pastoral products of that provice or area, namely—

- (*a*) in respect of the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two the average prices of the preceding year, and in respect of the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three the average prices of the two preceding years, and in respect of the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four the average prices of the three preceding years, and in respect of the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five the average prices of the four preceding years; and
- (*b*) in respect of each subsequent calendar year the average prices of the five years last preceding that year;

and the Land Commission shall publish the prices so ascertained in respect of each year in the *Dublin Gazette* at such times as they think most convenient for giving information to all persons interested, and the prices so ascertained and published in respect of each year shall be the gazetted prices for that year.

(13.) The Land Commission may also, whenever a holding is inspected by an Assistant Commissioner or other officer of the Commission, obtain in the prescribed manner information with respect to the customary products of holdings, and their relative value.

(14.) An application under this section shall be deemed to be a joint application, where the Land Commission are satisfied, that either the landlord or tenant has served upon the other the prescribed notice requesting him to join in the application, and the person upon whom the notice was served has not within the prescribed time after such service given notice of his refusal to join therein.

Under the Order of the House of this date, Clause 14 ceased to be part of the Bill.

Clause 15,—

COUNTY COURT JURISDICTION.

(1.) After the commencement of this Act a County Court shall not have any jurisdiction, either to dispose of an application to fix a fair rent, or in relation to any proceeding under the Land Law Acts, or this part of this Act, and the Land Commission shall alone be deemed to be the Court within the meaning of those Acts and this part of this Act; and any such application or proceeding which is pending at the said commencement in any County Court shall be transferred to the Land Commission, and all records and papers relating to any application or proceeding under the Land Law Acts, whether so pending or not, shall be transferred to the Land Commission, by such persons, and in such manner, and in accordance with such regulations, as the Land Commission may direct and make.

(2.) Where an ejectment is brought in any County Court for the nonpayment of the rent of a holding and an application to fix a fair rent, whether made before or after the ejectment was brought, is pending, the Court shall, unless they consider that the application is not *bonâ fide*, stay the proceedings in such ejectment until the application has been disposed of.

Under the Order of the House of this date, Clause 15 ceased to be part of the Bill.

Clause 16,—

AMENDMENTS OF PROCEDURE AS TO LIMITED REPRESENTATION OF DECEASED PERSON.

On any application under the Land Law Acts, as amended by this Act, an order may, subject to the prescribed regulations, be made by the Court, appointing some person limited administrator of a deceased person for the purpose of such application, and such order may be made whether such deceased person did or did not die before the application, or make a will which was not proved.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17,—

LAND COMMISSION AND LAND JUDGE.—REGULATIONS AS TO INTERCHANGE OF DUTIES OF THE LAND JUDGE AND THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

(1.) The Lord Chancellor, the Land Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court, and the Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission, or any two of them (of whom the Lord Chancellor shall be one) may make rules for the following purposes, namely:—

- (*a.*) To enable the Land Judge to act as an additional Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission—
  - (i) in any matter arising under the Land Purchase Acts as amended by this Act; or
  - (ii) in any appeal or rehearing under the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act;

(*b.*) To enable the Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission to exercise any jurisdiction, powers, and duties, so far as existing at the commencement of this Act—

(i) of the High Court or any judge thereof, either as successors of the Landed Estates Court and the judges thereof, or under the Record of Title (Ireland) Act, 1865, or the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891; and

(ii) of the Land Judge and of the Receiver Judge under any enactment conferring any jurisdiction upon either of such Judges as such;

(*c.*) To enable the High Court to distribute the proceeds of any sale under the Land Purchase Acts, and to enable the Land Commission to carry into effect any sale under those Acts ordered by the High Court.

(2.) For carrying into effect any such rules, and exercising the jurisdiction, powers, and duties arising thereunder, the Land Judge shall be deemed to be an additional Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission, and the Judicial Commissioner shall be deemed to be an additional Land Judge.

(3.) The Land Judge as respects officers of the Supreme Court who are attached to such Judge, or otherwise employed in or about the execution of any such jurisdiction, powers, and duties as may under this section be exercised by the Judicial Commissioner, and the Judicial Commissioner, so far as respects the officers of the Land Commission, may direct those officers to perform such duties as he thinks fit under the Land Commission or under the Land Judge, as the case may be, and those officers shall perform those duties.

(4.) The Land Judge and the Judicial Land Commissioner may also make regulations for carrying into effect any rules made in pursuance of this section, and for the mutual relations between the Land Judge and the officers of the Supreme Court on the one side, and the Land Commission and their officers on the other, and in particular for the payment into the High Court of money to be distributed among the parties entitled thereto, and for the Land Commission carrying into effect any sales under the Land Purchase Acts ordered by the High Court.

(5.) Subsections two and three of section fifty of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, shall apply to rules made under this section.

(6.) The first rules under this section shall be made as soon as practicable after the commencement of this Act.

**Mr. FLYNN** moved in Sub-section (1) to omit the words "the Land Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court." He considered that it was unsatisfactory there should be this interchange of duties between the Land Judge and the Judicial Commissioner in the administration of the Land Act. It would be better if the Lord Chancellor and the Judicial Commissioner and the President of the Incorporated Land Society of Ireland, or some other official, should form the body who had to draft the rules indicated in the clause, without bringing in the Land Judge. The whole question of the clause was open to doubt.

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** thought it was hardly desirable to press an Amendment of this kind. He did not wish to speak too lavishly of a gentleman who had only been in the position of a Judge for a few months and whom he had often opposed in that House, but he considered the appointment of Mr. Ross as Land Judge had been a most satisfactory one, and it was not advisable to take away from him the power of having a say in the making of these rules.

**Mr. DILLON** said that as he understood the Amendment it was not so much directed against the power of Mr. Justice Ross to make these rules as against the character of the rules he and the other gentlemen were empowered to make. The clause said that they—

> "may make rules for the following purposes, namely (*a*) To enable the Land Judge to act as an additional Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission—(i) in any matter arising under the Land Purchase Act as amended by this Act, or (ii) in any appeal or re-hearing under the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act."

He strongly objected to both these subsections, and it was impossible to consider the question of making rules without taking into purview at the same time the far-reaching character of the matters over which the section empowered these gentlemen to make rules. What he would be inclined to suggest to the hon. Member for North Cork would be not so much to press his present Amendment as the subsequent one, in which he proposed to omit Sub-section (*a*).

**Mr. FLYNN** said that, after the remarks of the hon. Member for North Louth and the hon. Member for East Mayo, he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL moved in Sub-section (1), after the words "High Court," to leave out the word "and." He said the object of the Amendment was to join the President of the Incorporated Society of Ireland as one of the rule-making authorities. There was a very strong feeling on the part of the Incorporated Society that the President should be associated with the learned Judges mentioned in the section for the purpose of making the necessary rules. In the Judicature Act of 1894 for England, the President of the Incorporated Society of England was associated with the learned Judges for the purpose of making rules. The majority of the practitioners in these Courts were solicitors, and he thought the head of the profession should have a voice in making the rules and regulations.

Mr. RENTOUL said that, having regard to the fact that the President of the Incorporated Law Society was changed every year, he thought it would be rather unfortunate to agree to this Amendment. If the President were a permanent officer the Amendment would be a proper one.

Mr. MACNEILL reminded the hon. and learned Member that the Lord Chancellor was changed with every Government. He hoped the Amendment would be accepted, because he thought it would be very proper that the head of the profession which practised most in these Courts should have a voice in the making of the rules in reference to the practice of the Courts.

*Mr. R. M. DANE (Fermanagh, N.) also hoped the Amendment would be accepted. This matter had excited a considerable amount of interest in Ireland amongst the solicitor profession, and he would appeal to the Chief Secretary to allow the President of the Incorporated Society to be associated with the Judges for the purposes mentioned in the section.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR trusted the right hon. and learned Gentleman would not insist on the Amendment. He thought that anyone who read the clause and appreciated the purpose of it, would see that the introduction of the President of the Incorporated Society was wholly out of place. The object of the clause was to make regulations as to the interchange of duties of the Land Judge and the Judicial Commissioner of the Irish Land Commission. Would it not be really absurd to introduce a gentleman from a body outside, however competent, that had really nothing whatever to do with the mutual relations between the Courts?

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL said he had no objection to withdraw the Amendment. It was in conformity with the strongly-expressed wishes of the Incorporated Society that he tabled the Amendment, but of course, if it was against the pleasure of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, he would not press it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. FLYNN moved to leave out Sub-section (*a*). There was a very strong feeling in Ireland in regard to the constitution of the Land Commission. It was felt very strongly that the members were appointed entirely from one class of the population—the landlord class, and that, as a rule, they took a not unfavourable view of the landlords' interests. Nothing more true or cogent had been said in the course of the Debate than the remark made by the hon. and learned Member for North Louth, that the nature and character of the clauses of the Land Act were not more important than its administration—that, in fact, the great and essential point in the successful working of the Land Acts in Ireland were the character of their administration and their administrators. It was not in human nature to expect that the average Irish tenant would feel any confidence in the administration of an Act, especially a Land Act, when he knew that his class had no voice or influence whatever in the appointment of the administrators. ["Hear, hear!"] They were face to face with an amending Act, and with the opening of a fresh statutory term, and if there was to be peace and contentment in Ireland the people must have confidence in the law and in its fair administration between all parties, especially in regard to cases of appeal. This feeling of want of confidence in the Land Commission existed in all parts of Ireland, and he ventured to say it prevailed as much in Ulster as in any other province. All the time they had spent on this Bill in the effort to better the relations between landlord and tenant would be wasted if those who were to administer it—and above all the Land Commissioner, who exercised the higher functions of appeal—were to be exclusively drawn from one class of the population closely connected with the landlords, for the tenantry would not have confidence in the administration. That lack of confidence existed now in regard to the Land Commission, and for the reasons he had given, he moved the Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he supported the proposal of his hon. Friend, though he confessed he should have been satisfied with a more moderate Amendment, in the form, for instance, of excluding Mr. Justice Ross from all power of interfering with the Land Commission in the matter of fixing fair rents. If the Government insisted on the intrusion of Mr. Justice Ross in the fair rent Department of the Land Commission, to which work he was entirely foreign, and with which he had no connection at all, they would be open to an unfavourable imputation. The history of the Land Department was rather peculiar. Mr. Justice Monroe was long stricken down by a serious illness, but he did not resign until the Tories came into office, in order to throw the gift of a Land Judge into the hands of the Tory Party. It was well known that Judge Monroe stood as a candidate against him, and therefore must be regarded as a partisan, but he was bound to say that a more pleasant judge to practice before in Court he had never known. Judge Monroe, however, was stricken down by an absolutely incapacitating illness in the month of March 1895. He went away to Egypt, but he withheld his resignation, knowing that a General Election was pending. The moment the party of law and order came into office he handed in his resignation. Mr. Justice Ross was appointed in Mr. Justice Monroe's stead, and at the very moment that that learned Judge was inducted to his office there was made the proposal to make him an additional Fair Rent Commissioner. The Government suddenly discovered, on coming into office, that there was such a thing as the 65 Rule, and Mr. Rice was, under that rule, struck off. He thought the Government would act wisely if they would limit the proposal in the Bill. He would give Mr. Justice Ross full power over the department he managed so well, and which was germane to his present position—namely, the sale and purchase of land; but he could not see why, when there were already five Fair Rent Commissioners, another should be appointed. Under Clause 18, the Lord Chancellor might nominate any Judge of the High Court, with his consent, to act for the time specified by the Lord Chancellor as an additional Land Judge. In other words, Mr. Justice Ross was to be taken from his proper and appropriate duties and appointed an additional Land Judge. While, too, Mr. Justice Ross was to be taken from his proper duties the Government declined to fill up the existing vacancy in Ireland caused by the death of Mr. Justice Harrison. The question of fair rents ought to be left to the existing Judges, especially when the Government were using the age rule to remove officials who were trusted by the tenants.

*MR. DANE said that nobody would be better pleased than Mr. Justice Ross himself if this Amendment were accepted, because no more invidious duty could be thrown upon a Judge than the duty of fixing fair rents. He regretted that the hon. and learned Member for Louth should have made an ungracious attack upon an able and upright Judge, who had been compelled to retire through ill-health. The allegations of the hon. and learned Member had no foundation in fact. The hon. Member said that the learned Judge, who was struck down by illness in March 1895, retained his office with the view of resigning it when the present Government came into Office. That was not the case. The learned Judge obtained leave of absence in the hope that he might regain his health, and when that leave expired in March last, nine months after the present Administration came into power, he sent in his resignation. He was sure the hon. and learned Member would regret having made an attack upon an eminent Judge, who enjoyed the confidence and respect of all classes in Ireland.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that if it was the case that in March 1895, when the Liberals were in Office, Mr. Justice

Munroe obtained leave of absence, he should be ready to withdraw what he had said.

MR. DANE said that he believed that it was an absolute fact that Mr. Justice Munroe obtained six months' leave, expiring last October, and that he then obtained a six months' extension of leave, and when that further extension expired he resigned his office.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that he would assume that what the hon. and learned Member said was correct. If in the observations he had addressed to the House there appeared to be any personal reflections upon Mr. Munroe, he disclaimed them, and would be glad that they should pass out of the recollection of the Committee.

*MR. DANE remarked that the hon. Member, as a Member of the Bar, had acted as he (Mr. Dane) anticipated he would when he heard the facts of the case.

MR. DILLON thought the Amendment a very important one. He was against the proposal to add Mr. Justice Ross to the Land Commission for the purpose of fixing fair rents, and he had an almost equally strong objection to his being added to the Land Commission for any purpose whatever, and particularly for the administration of the Land Purchase Clauses. Putting aside altogether the question of Mr. Justice Ross's political career, there was no doubt that the nature of his duties as a Judge of the Land Court, and the nature of his duties if he were made a Commissioner charged with functions in connection with the sale and purchase of holdings, would be diametrically opposed to each other. A Land Judge's duty was to get the highest possible price for the land sold in his court, whilst it was often the duty of a Land Commissioner to decide whether landlords and tenants had not agreed to set too high a price upon land. In fact, it was his business to protect the Treasury. The duties of the Land Judge and Land Commissioner were, therefore, inconsistent, and it would be monstrous to transfer Mr. Justice Ross to the Land Commissioners' Court, either as a Land Purchase Commissioner or Fair Rent Commissioner, even if there was no special reason connected with the personality of the learned Judge why this should not be done. This clause was one which would undoubtedly arouse the greatest alarm and distrust in Ireland. It was recognised by men entirely outside of Party that the Land Commission as at present constituted was by a large majority in favour of the landlords. The Government proposed by this subsection to add an additional Land Commissioner, who, by his associations and political prepossessions must be considered as unfavourable to the tenants' case. It was preposterous that this addition could be looked upon in any other light than as hostile to the tenants' interests. Supposing Mr. Justice Munroe had resigned before the late General Election, and that the right hon. Member for Montrose had appointed the Judge to the Land Commission, would this clause have been introduced into the Bill? The Government would never have introduced this proposal under such circumstances. He thought that this would be a most unfortunate thing to do. The interpretation which would in Ireland be placed upon this sub-section, combined with the decision of the Treasury in regard to the 65 Rule, would be that the Government were determined to pack the Irish Land Commission from top to bottom in the interests of the landlords.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he had heard with very deep regret the remarks of the hon. Member for East Mayo. The appointment of Mr. Justice Ross to the Judicial Bench was a perfectly proper one, and there was no reason why, under any circumstances, he should exercise partiality.

MR. DILLON said that what he complained of was the importation of this gentleman into the Land Commission.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the Land Commission had to exercise judicial functions, and he failed, therefore, to see the pertinence of the interruption. The hon. Member seemed also to think that if the appointment had been in the hands of the right hon. Member for Montrose it would have been a partisan appointment. In making judicial appointments they always had regard to the fitness of the gentlemen who were appointed—[*ironical Nationalist cheers*]—and, speaking for himself, he should have perfect confidence in the appointments of the right hon. Gentleman opposite. This clause had regard to the desirability of amalgamating, or partly amalgamating, two Departments. For his part he should be extremely sorry if the Amendment were carried. In future the work of the Commission would be considerably increased, and the staff would consequently have to be correspondingly strengthened. The Government had adopted the arrangement proposed to be carried out in this clause because it could be embodied in a single clause, whereas any other arrangement would have necessitated the consideration of some six or eight clauses. He appealed to the hon. Gentleman not to press the Amendment.

MR. J. MORLEY said if the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland had proposed to completely reorganise the staff of the Commission, he should have cordially agreed in his recommendation, but the fact was that the right hon. Gentleman had proposed only partially to reorganise it, and his proposal possessed none of the merits of the larger proposal that had been foreshadowed by the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House. The Land Commission at the present time was composed of men who had taken no active part in the politics of Ireland, and now for the first time it was proposed to appoint a political partisan upon it. He could not but regard such a proposal as being a most unfortunate one.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that the appointments to the Land Commission had been made with strict impartiality. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. J. MORLEY said that it had so happened that during the three years that the late Government were in office no vacancy had occurred on the Commission, but that the moment they were out of office two vacancies occurred. He did not desire to make any remarks upon the way in which those appointments were filled up further than to say that Mr. Justice Monroe was one of the most upright of men. ["Hear, hear!"] There was undoubtedly a great deal to be said in favour of reorganising the whole system of the land administration of Ireland. The present position of the Land Judges Court appeared to be one of the most striking among the many anomalies of Irish administration. The Chief Secretary pointed out that under Clause 34 of this Bill the Landed Estates Court would have certain transactions in common, as it were, with the Land Commission; that was to say, that the Judge of the Landed Estates Court would have to act in a kind of judicial capacity in reference to the awards made by the Land Commission. If it was intended that the Land Judge should take any part as a Land Commissioner in these transactions great difficulties would undoubtedly arise. Whether that was so or not, he thought it was a very unfortunate thing to approach this great work of amalgamation with a Judge who had been identified with party politics. The proposal of the right hon. Gentleman dealt in an inadequate way with a most important question, and he should support the Amendment.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that if the Government brought forward a complete scheme dealing with any branch of administration, they were told it was so large that they could not pass it within the time at their disposal. If they tried to modify that scheme so as to deal with the exigencies and limits of Parliamentary time, then they were told that the scheme was so imperfect that they had better wait until the opportunity occurred for bringing forward a complete scheme. He did not follow the right hon. Gentleman's argument. It seemed that he would not mind a complete scheme of reform in which Mr. Justice Ross was included as one of the active parties, but because the scheme was not a complete one, then the fact that Mr. Justice Ross happened to have been a Member of the House, sitting on the Unionist side, and so far a partisan, was conclusive against the scheme. Surely, if the fact that Mr. Justice Ross was at one time a Member of the Unionist Party in the House was an argument against his being included in a partial scheme, it was equally conclusive against his being included in a complete scheme; and let it be observed that if it was a complete scheme it must include Mr. Justice Ross. He had never pretended to be a partisan of the land legislation of 1881. One of the inherent and inevitable results of that legislation was that the appointment to judicial functions must be made by the party in power, and so it was always open to the opponents of the party in power to charge them with partisanship. But they had to accept that, and must make the best of it. He asked the Committee to consider the scheme of the Government quite apart from the individual who would administer it for the moment. The plan advanced by his right hon. Friend was to ask the assistance of the Judge of the Landed Estates Court both in cases of land purchase and of fair rent. The hon. Member for Louth was prepared to accept that arrangement in the case of land purchase, but not in the case of fixing of fair rents. The Government admitted that land purchase was the more important of the two branches, but they were given to understand that, unless the judical element in the fair-rent part of the Land Court was strengthened, a large arrears of business must gradually accumulate. That element might be strengthened by the employment of a Judge of the Land Court, which was the more obvious course, or by the appointment of a new Judge. But, if the latter course were followed, the same people who appointed Mr. Justice Ross would appoint the new Judge, and the exercise of their patronage in that event would be open to precisely the same charge as the exercise of their patronage in the case of Mr. Justice Ross.

MR. J. MORLEY was understood to say that it would be possible to appoint a Judge not so open to the charge of prejudice.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY hoped that Mr. Justice Ross was not open to a charge of prejudice. But, so far as he knew Ireland, every human being in it decidedly belonged to either one party or the other—[*laughter*]—and there was no way that human ingenuity could devise of selecting officials from a middle party, for a middle party could not be discovered by the most microscopic investigation. Therefore every Judge was open to attacks from opponents. One of the first judicial Commissioners appointed by the party opposite to deal with fair rents was Mr. Lytton. That gentleman was for many years in the House as an ardent and consistent supporter of hon. Gentlemen opposite, but it was never said that he was thereby unfit for his position. He was sure that hon. Gentlemen opposite would at least agree that the Government were not animated in making their proposal by any partisan view; that their sole wish was to oil the machinery of the Land Court, and he hoped, therefore, the sense of the Committee would be taken upon that proposal without further delay.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he felt in his bones that this clause was wrong—[*laughter*]—though he might not adequately express his feelings. The point was not that Mr. Justice Ross was a partisan, but that this clause had been drafted at a particular moment to suit the gentlemen at one end of the scale while the Government were operating at the other end of the scale under this Rule 65.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I only heard of the application of this Rule 65 this very morning. Certainly it never entered into my calculations.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that he did not think that confession helped matters. If the right hon. Gentleman had added that he did not intend to approve of the application of the rule——

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It does not rest with me.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I suppose it is our old friend the Treasury—[*laughter*]—the dominant partner in everything. Why should not this matter be settled on a basis of compromise? If Irishmen were reasonably sensitive on a certain point, the Government ought to go some way to meet them. It would be a fair compromise if the right hon. Gentleman would say that for the present Mr. Justice Ross should be confined to the duties of a Purchase Commissioner.

MR. DILLON remarked that what the right hon. Gentleman proposed was that Mr. Ross, as Land Judge, should request Mr. Ross, as Land Commissioner, to get the estate inspected, and that then the matter should come back to Mr. Ross, as Land Judge, to pronounce on the conduct of Mr. Ross, as Land Commissioner. He did not say that the Land Commission might not so arrange their business as to avoid that, but he submitted it was a possible transaction under the clause as it stood. He did not see how the acceptance of this Amendment would in the least degree interfere with Clause 34. He knew perfectly well there were great difficulties surrounding the whole question of appointing Land Commissioners for land purchase in Ireland. While admitting that it was a difficult and delicate task to select men in Ireland of proper qualifications and with antecedents that would convince the people that they would act judicially and impartially in the administration of these laws, he thought that the Government was bound to take some pains to make that selection. He did not think that this was a wise or prudent occasion on which to select as an additional Land Commissioner a gentleman who quite recently had been a militant Unionist in the House, and in the closest political relations with some of the leaders of the landlord party in Parliament. He did not complain of the character of Mr. Justice Ross, but hon. Members should remember that he had only been recently removed from the arena of political strife. What would hon. Gentlemen say if he, a Nationalist, were to retire for a year, and a Liberal Government appointed him a Commissioner of the Land Court? Would hon. Gentlemen think it a fair and reasonable appointment, or would the Irish landlords consider it to be such? It was absurd to ask the Irish people to accept Mr. Justice Ross as a fit and proper person to sit on the Judicial Bench in Ireland and to pretend that he could hold the balance evenly and fairly between landlords and tenants.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY pointed out that every reform which had ever been suggested of the Land Courts consisted more or less in these particular relations, and it did so happen that Mr. Justice Ross was a Judge of the Landed Estates Court. But the predecessor of Mr. Justice Ross was in the Land Court, and this clause was adopted in its main lines before it was known or suspected that Mr. Ross would be the Judge. All he said was let him be judged fairly. He did not see how they could deal with the judicial functions now.

MR. J. MORLEY wished to say one word about Mr. Justice Ross. The right hon. Gentleman had not dealt with the point which he had ventured to raise. He had acknowledged that if it was intended that the Land Judge should take any part as a Land Commissioner in these transactions great difficulties would arise, and apparently now the Land Judge was to be to all intents and purposes a Land Commissioner.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No, that is not so. The Land Judge will have to exercise different functions from the Land Commissioner.

MR. J. MORLEY said in that case Clause 34 would have to be modified. It was very important to know how the matter stood. He had already said that under Clause 34 of this Bill the Landed Estates Court would have certain transactions in common, as it were, with the Land Commission; that was to say, the Judge of the Landed Estates Court would have to act in a kind of judicial capacity in reference to the awards made by the Land Commission. They had not had any answer to that.

MR. RENTOUL said that every man of mark in Ireland had been prominently identified with politics. Therefore, if the argument of the Nationalist Members were to carry weight, a difficulty would arise whoever was appointed as a Judge. For himself he had no sort of doubt that they would be impartial. ["Hear, hear!"] He knew four or five other gentlemen whose names might be submitted from his side of the House, but he knew that the hon. Member for East Mayo would make exactly the same objection to them; and probably, if other gentlemen were submitted from the other side of the House, the hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh would take the same objection. The hon. Member for East Mayo, while admitting that someone must be put in here, had only attacked the man it was proposed to put in, and had not suggested any alternative. If he would suggest an alternative, no doubt the Government would consider it.

MR. DILLON said he would suggest, by way of alternative, that the hon. Gentleman should himself be appointed a Land Commissioner. He rose, however, to point out that the Chief Secretary said a few moments ago that the chief object of importing Mr. Justice Ross into the Land Court was to facilitate the operation of Clause 34; but, in the last speech he made, he said that so far as Clause 34 was concerned Mr. Justice Ross would not act at all with the Land Commission. He wished to know which view was the right one?

MR. HARRINGTON thought that such a proposal as that in the clause was very necessary for the proper working of the Acts in Ireland. He remembered a case in which a number of tenants were extremely anxious to get the opportunity of purchasing their farms, and they could not do so because the Land Court, which had to deal with their cases, had not the power to lend money for the purpose. So far as Mr. Justice Ross was concerned, he appealed to the Irish Members to say whether the same attacks that had been made on that Judge were not made on Mr. Justice O'Hagan. It made very litte difference to the Irish Members what party the Judge belonged to, if he had a sense of fair play.

MR. MACNEILL observed that he had no unkindly feeling towards Mr. Justice Ross. Though he and that gentleman had differed for many years in politics, they had been on terms of intimate personal friendship. There was no one in whose appointment he more rejoiced than that of Mr. Justice Ross as Land Judge. There were frequent complaints in reference to the Irish Bench being over manned, but it would be within the knowledge of everyone that the Land Judges' Court was an exception, and had plenty to do. Its President had the work of two Judges. Only a few years ago there were two Land Judges, but on the Courts being amalgamated only one Judge remained. Why should Mr. Justice Ross's duties be increased, or what was the object of increasing his duties? Personally, in any matter affecting himself, he should have the utmost confidence in Mr. Justice Ross, but would his appointment, coupled with the 65 years rule, and having regard to his antecedents, not be regarded as an endeavour to pack with partisans the Land Commission in the interests of the landlords? He believed that the reasons which had been alleged for making this gentleman a Judge of the Land Commission were not the real and vital reasons which had actuated the Government in this matter. Mr. Justice Ross was not only a vehement partisan, but his appointment was due to landlord influence.

MR. FLYNN said he wished to point out that neither the right hon. Gentleman nor any hon. Gentleman from the other side of the House had met the point that the Land Judge—whether he be Judge Ross or not he did not care—was called upon to discharge two positions which were mutually inconsistent and, to any fair-minded man, naturally destructive. As a Land Purchase Judge, he was supposed to act as a protector of the taxpayer; to see that no unreasonable sum was advanced, and that the credit of the State was not pledged beyond what it ought to be. But in the capacity of Land Judge, he was a kind of dry nurse to certain estates in Ireland. This was an inconsistent and even false position in which to place a Judge. He thought he had shown that the subsection was a dangerous one, and he hoped that every fair-minded man, who wished to see the administration of the Act carried out fairly and honestly, would support the Amendment.

Question put:—

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 153; Noes, 79.—(Division List, No. 342.)

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved to omit Sub-section (*b*). He had no desire to contest the proposal of the Government, but wished to ask why the subsection which purported to confer additional powers on the Judical Commissioner had been introduced in the Bill. It appeared to him that the subsection would rather limit the Judicial Commissioner's powers, because by Section 41 of the Act of 1881 a Judicial Commissioner was made a Judge of the Supreme Court, and given powers accordingly.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that the point raised by the hon. Member was a highly technical one, and that he would like to have time in which to consider it.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked whether the Land Judge or the Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission would have precedence, and whether they would have correlative rights in respect of the distribution of patronage.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that hon. Members opposite seemed to be under a misapprehension as to the meaning of the clause. What the section did was to enable the Lord Chancellor, the Land Judges, and the Judicial Commissioner to frame rules, and to frame rules in such a way that there would be no conflict of jurisdiction as had been suggested.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Then the whole scheme of the sub-section is to enable gentlemen to make rules?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND: Certainly, consistently with the provisions of the clause.

MR. MAURICE HEALY pointed out that the sub-section expressly provided that the object of the rule was to enable the Judicial Commissioner to exercise jurisdiction.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said he had a perfect right to exercise jurisdiction already, and this clause enabled him to make the rules.

MR T. M. HEALY asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

On the question "That Clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill,"

MR. MAURICE HEALY called attention to what seemed to him an absurdity, namely, that while the clause enabled the Land Judge to exercise the powers of the Judicial Commissioner for the purpose of hearing an appeal, it did not give him power to hear a motion to substitute service, or any other motion of that sort.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said the object of the clause was to prevent the arrear of business which might accrue.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved, at the end of the clause, to insert the following sub-section:—

"Such rules which apply to the Court of the Land Commission in Dublin shall be held at the Four Courts in Dublin and not elsewhere."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.) moved to omit Clause 17. He approached this Bill not as a friend but as an enemy. He believed the Bill to be from the beginning to the end an amalgam of fraud and hypocrisy, and he hoped that it would never find its way into the Statute Book of the Imperial Parliament. Mr. Justice Ross was one of the most notorious partisans of landlords in Ireland, and therefore, he was one of the worst persons that the Unionist Party could have put upon the Land Commission. This clause would affect some 30 millions' worth per annum of landlords' property in Ireland. Various attempts had been made during the last 20 or 30 years to dispose of that property in the open market, and the average price offered for it had been about 12 years' purchase. That often had not been accepted because the landlords did not think the price sufficient. Now under the operation of this clause, the property would be disposed of at from 17 to 20 years' purchase, with the result that the tenants who purchased their holdings would be defrauded of from five to eight years' purchase.

Amendment negatived; clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 18,—

POWER TO NOMINATE JUDGE TO ACT AS ADDITIONAL LAND JUDGE FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

The Lord Chancellor may nominate any Judge of the High Court with his consent to act for the time specified by the Lord Chancellor as an additional Land Judge for the purposes of the Record of Title (Ireland) Act, 1865, and the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and the Judge so nominated shall have during that time the jurisdiction of the Land Judge for those purposes.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 19,—

ALTERATION OF MODE OF CALCULATING PURCHASE ANNUITY.

(1.) In the case of every advance made after the commencement of this Act the purchase annuity shall be calculated and payable—

- (*a*) during the first decade of the annuity, upon the total advance; and
- (*b*) during the second and third decades, upon the portion of the advance which is ascertained, as provided by this section, to be unpaid at the end of the previous decade; and
- (*c*) after the end of the third decade, upon the portion of the advance which is ascertained, as provided by this section, to be then unpaid.

and shall continue to be paid until the whole advance is ascertained as provided by this section to have been repaid.

(2.) The Land Commission shall, in accordance with such rules as the Treasury may make—

- (*a*) at the end of each of the said decades ascertain how much of the advance has been repaid by means of the accumulation during the decade of that portion of the purchase annuity which represents repayment of capital, and the residue of the advance shall be the unpaid amount upon which the subsequent annuity is to be calculated and paid; and

(b) ascertain when the whole advance has been repaid by means of the accumulation of that portion of the purchase annuity which represents repayment of capital.

(3.) If the proprietor of a holding charged with an annuity applies to the Land Commission within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner, prior to the end of each of the said decades, that the annuity during the next decade shall not be reduced under this section, no alteration of the annuity shall then be made.

(4.) The amount of the annuity, when recalculated as provided by this section, shall be certified by the Land Commission, and that certificate shall be conclusive for all purposes, and shall be sent by them to the registration authority under the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891.

(5.) The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply in the case of an annuity for any advance made under the Land Purchase Acts before the commencement of this Act, subject as follows:—

(a) where more than ten years have elapsed since an annuity for the repayment of the advance began, the amount of the advance remaining unpaid shall be ascertained as at the end of the last complete decade since that beginning, and the reduction of the annuity in the current decade shall date from the gale day next after the commencement of this Act.

(b) In a case where a purchaser's insurance money has been paid, the amount so paid, and not set off against arrears, shall be taken into account at the end of the first decade. as if it were a portion of the purchase annuity which represents repayment of capital; and the provisions with respect to setting off against arrears purchaser's insurance money so paid shall not apply after the end of such decade.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved, in Sub-section (1), after the word "advance," to insert the words "under the Land Purchase Acts."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved, in Sub-section (1), after "payable" to insert the words "at the rate of £3 10s. per cent."

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: As I understand the meaning of the hon. Gentleman's Amendment, it is out of order. The Amendment proposes to make a charge upon the Treasury. Supposing the rate of interest is reduced, and failure was made in paying the annuity, the Treasury would lose by the difference between the two rates. If that is so, the fund would be diminished to that extent, and the State would be liable to make good the difference.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY submitted that the Amendment would not affect the Treasury, or impose a greater burden on the subject, and that if it lessened the amount of interest, it would extend the period of payment. From both points of view he submitted that the Amendment was in order.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that when, recently, the hon. Member for Lynn Regis called the attention of the Speaker to a Bill as requiring a Committee on the ground that it was a financial Bill, the Speaker ruled that, as the fund had already been provided for, and the Bill only dealt with the allocation of the fund, a Committee was not necessary.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS repeated that the State would be liable to make good the difference between the two rates.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY said he did not propose that there should be any extra liability on the State. If it was proposed that the annuity should be reduced, the point of the Chairman would be a good one; but he was simply proposing to extend the periods of the annuity. That would throw no additional burden on the State, but simply give the tenant the privilege of a longer time to discharge his burden.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: But supposing the Amendment formed part of the Bill and payment were made at a lesser rate, and the annuity ceased to be paid, the State would supply the difference between the £3 10s. and the £4 per cent. which would be the proper sum for the tenant to pay.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY replied that that would be the consequence not of his Amendment, but the general failure of the tenants to pay. That was a loss which would fall on the Treasury at any time by the default of the tenant. It would not arise from his Amendment.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: I must rule that the Amendment is out of order.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.) rose to move to leave out the word "decade," and to insert instead thereof the words "period of five years."

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** submitted to the Chairman that after the ruling he had just given this Amendment would be out of order on the same grounds. The Amendment proposed to alter the conditions of the security.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: I think so. I must also rule this Amendment out of order on the same ground.

**Sir THOMAS ESMONDE** moved to leave out the word "decades," and to insert instead thereof "periods of five years, and during each subsequent period of five years."

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR**: On a point of order, does not this Amendment also alter the conditions of the security?

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: The objection does not arise in this case, so far as I understand the Amendment. The 49 years during which the repayments of the purchase money are to be made are divided by the Bill into decades, and the hon. Member proposes to divide them instead into periods of five years.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** said that the effect of the Amendment would be to upset the actuarial calculations upon which the proposals of the clause were founded, and therefore it would affect the security.

**Mr. J. MORLEY**: Then we are in this position, that we cannot change the proposed arrangement.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: We may change it, but only against the tenant.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: If it is a fact that the Amendment would throw the liability on the Treasury, it cannot, of course, be accepted without the consent of the Crown. I therefore rule it out of order.

**Mr. FINCH HATTON** (Notts, Newark) moved to add at the end of the clause:—

> "Provided that the purchase annuities of tenants who have acquired or who may acquire their holdings under the Land Purchase Acts, shall be subject to revision in like manner as rents now are under the revision clauses of the Land Acts of 1881 and 1887."

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: The same ruling applies to this Amendment. The interest might be reduced under such an arrangement, and the Treasury would be the loser.

**Sir T. ESMONDE** moved to add at the end of the clause:—

> "And the provisions of this section shall apply in the cases of simple mortgages under section twenty-three of the Purchase Act of 1885, power being hereby given to the Land Commission to convert any such mortgages into instalment mortgages on the application of the persons liable, provided they agree to pay the same rate of interest on their mortgages as is payable by purchasers under this Act."

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** said he would be sorry to give an answer offhand, but he would consider the matter.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**Mr. MAURICE HEALY** moved to insert in Sub-section (4), after the word "them," the words "for registration."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. MAURICE HEALY** moved an Amendment so as to give the tenant the reduction of the annuity in the current decade dating from "and including" the gale day next after the commencement of the Act. Unless those words were included the tenant would not receive the relief properly intended, and it might make a difference of a six months' term to him.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** said he did not see that there could be any material advantage in one day.

**Mr. MAURICE HEALY** pointed out that it was not one day, but one gale.

**Mr. J. MORLEY** said this was a very technical point, but he saw that it might make a difference of six months. By inserting the Amendment that would obviate every possible objection. He did not think it could possibly do any harm.

*Sir J. COLOMB suggested whether, as they had now been considering the Bill for nine and a half hours, and this seemed to be a very difficult question, it would not be advisable to report Progress. [*Nationalist cries of* "No!"]

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said he did not wish to press the House to an impossible or intolerable length, but he thought they might finish this clause. He did not think he was wrong in saying that there was really nothing in the next two or three clauses. If the House would give them to the end of Clause 8 he would then report Progress.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS asked the hon. Member if he pressed his Motion to report Progress.

*SIR J. COLOMB said he did not make any Motion. He merely made a suggestion.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he thought the hon. Member for Cork City was very likely right, and before Report he would consider the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. P. J. POWER (Waterford, E.) said he had a sub-section on the Paper which he wished to move, and by which the period for the payment of instalments would not be increased beyond the terms of the Bill. He would like to know whether he would be in order in moving it.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said that his ruling applied to the sub-section and it would not be in order.

MR. POWER asked the Chief Secretary to consider the state of the people on whose behalf he endeavoured to move the Amendment. Immediate relief was absolutely necessary in many parts of Munster.

MR. DILLON said that every Member on his side of the House had been in receipt of numerous requests, begging them to move such Amendments as would give a greater percentage of relief to purchasers under the Purchase Acts than this Bill afforded. It was perfectly notorious that in many parts of Ireland there were bodies of tenants who had contracted to buy their holdings under threats of eviction. They had consented, under coercion to place themselves under obligations to the State which they could not discharge, and while he thanked the Government for the relief proposed in this section, he desired to impress upon them the fact that this relief was not sufficient, and that there was urgent necessity for some further measure of relief. He trusted that in future the Judge who was responsible for the administration of the Land Purchase Acts would keep a closer eye on these transactions, with a view to seeing that the tenants were not coerced into compulsory obligations they could not discharge. In speaking on the purchase question, he differed in this respect from the hon. Member for South Mayo. He had always been a supporter of the policy of purchase, but he had found it necessary on numerous occasions to raise his voice in warning to the Government as to the necessity of taking greater precautions than were now taken to secure that the tenants were not coerced into an engagement to pay too large a price. One of the reasons why he was so anxious about the passage of the Improvement Clauses before they got to the Purchase Clauses was that unquestionably what had occurred in a number of the cases of the tenants who were crying out for relief in the shape of reduction of their purchase annuities, was that the tenants had been compelled to purchase from their landlords the whole of their own improvements. That was the cause of the present difficulty. If the policy of purchase was to have a fair chance in Ireland and was to be a success, it was absolutely essential that the administration of the Purchase Commissioners should be very considerably improved in the direction he had indicated.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE remarked, as this was the first clause of the purchase part of the Bill, he wished to give expression to the opinion entertained by an increasing number of Members on his side of the House, that the whole purchase policy was a mistake, and would meet with an increasing amount of opposition from year to year in this country. The clauses of this particular Bill, however, were, comparatively speaking, clauses of detail, and did not, he thought, offer the policy to them in that shape which would make it desirable or wise that they should divide against the clauses, or in such a form as would enable the whole subject to be easily or conveniently discussed. A great many of them in and outside of the House wished to offer a word of protest with regard to the continuation of the purchase policy, and that was the proper occasion to do it, as that was the first of those clauses presented to them.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE thought the Government should consider whether they could not better their purchase proposals. What they should do was to extend the period of repayment in the case of the purchasers and to revise their instalments. Now that the Government had an opportunity of doing something to settle the Irish Land Question, he thought it would be a pity if they did not take advantage of it. If they did not better their purchase proposals, this Bill would not become effective.

MR. SMITH-BARRY (Hunts, Huntingdon) thought many English Members who were not conversant with the working of the Purchase Acts might be influenced by the statement of the hon. Member for East Mayo that tenants had agreements forced upon them on such terms that it was perfectly impossible for them to pay the instalments. He doubted whether any pressure had been put upon tenants to pay larger sums of money for their farms than they ought to have done, while he would also point out that the State was absolutely and entirely guaranteed, and that these agreements between landlords and tenants were subjected to the valuation of the Purchase Commissioners, who sent down and inspected the farms, and who, in the interests of the Treasury, would see most carefully that the amounts applied for were not excessive. They inspected not only the value of the land and the improvements upon it, but they also considered the condition of the tenant himself, whether he was idle or thrifty, and whether, consequently, they could advance him the money. The State took the utmost care to see that the amount advanced was such that the instalments were absolutely safe. He thought the statement of the hon. Member for East Mayo should not be allowed to pass without a word of remonstrance.

MR. CLANCY, dealing with the question of the rate of interest under this Bill, and under previous Acts of Parliament, contended that the Treasury was actually making a profit out of these transactions. He believed he was absolutely correct in stating that the percentage charged for interest and Sinking Fund was 4 per cent., precisely the same interest as was charged under the first Purchase Act of 1885. Everyone knew that money could be borrowed by the Government at at least 1 per cent. less than in 1885. If that was the case it was as plain as a pikestaff that the Government must be making a profit out of these transactions of at least 1 per cent. The only answer to this to which he could point was that this percentage might be applied towards the recouping of the loss the Treasury had sustained on the advances made under the Acts. But the loss to the Treasury under the repayment of the loans had been practically nil, and consequently the Treasury had not had to expend any of the profit which he contended they had been making under the Acts, and which they would continue to make under the present Bill. He regretted that the Rules of Parliament did not permit the Irish Members to move Amendments on the subject, but he would appeal to the Government that, having regard to the struggles of the Irish farmer, who had hard work very often to meet his purchase instalments, they might devote some of the profit made to their relief in the way of reducing the rate of interest. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. KNOX said the objection he had to this clause was that in its present form it was impossible for anyone to tell how many years the annuity in future was to run. The Treasury, up to the present, had gone on the principle of laying down a certain amount for interest, allowing a certain sum for the Sinking Fund, and allowing the annuity to run for 49 years. The Government had adopted the plan of lengthening the term for repayment. To that he did not object, but at the same time they had, under the Bill, left it practically to the Treasury to say what the length of time of repayment should be, and under a later clause the Treasury had power to assign as much as they liked of the aunnual payment to the Sinking Fund. They could lay down, also, the rate of interest, and there was no sort of implication in the Bill as to what was to guide them in laying down that rate. He deprecated this enormous power being placed in the hands of a Government Department, and especially as that Department was the Treasury, which was less popular with the mass of Irishmen than any other Department of the Government. ["Hear, hear!"] The Treasury had shown itself in this matter quite incompetent to forecast the future. In connection with the Bill of 1891 they were absolutely wrong in their calculations, and therefore were not entitled to that respect which would be given to the actuaries of an ordinary building society.

MR. POWER said the Government were able to borrow money at a very cheap rate of interest, and they ought to give purchasers the advantage of that rate. He hoped that between this and Report the right hon. Gentleman, whose skill they all admired, would frame some Resolution which would safeguard the interests of the Treasury, and at the same time confer some advantage on the people who purchased. No doubt instalments had been paid punctually, but in order that the payments might be made, farms had been depleted and tenants placed in a position of great difficulty.

MR. MAURICE HEALY hoped that, in order to facilitate purchase, somewhat better terms would be given to the tenants.

MR. MICHAEL FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) read a Resolution from the Ashbourne tenants to the effect that an Amendment should be introduced whereby the interest on instalments should be reduced from four to three per cent. He believed a great number of these tenants were on the verge of bankruptcy.

Clause 19, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 20,—

APPLICATION OF PART OF ACT TO ANNUITIES UNDER 32 AND 33 VICT. C. 42.

The foregoing provisions with respect to the calculation of a purchase annuity may be applied by the Land Commissioners with the necessary modifications, to the calculation of the instalments of an annuity by means of which any mortgage debt is payable under section 52 of the Irish Church Act, 1869.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, at the end of the clause to add the words "and the Acts amending the same."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 21,—

ABOLITION OF COUNTY PERCENTAGE.

The amount which, under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act 1891, is required to be applied as county percentage shall when received in respect of an instalment of the annuity falling due after the commencement of this Act, cease to be so applied and shall be paid to the National Debt Commissioners and applied as a portion of the purchase annuity which represents repayment of capital.

DR. CLARK suggested that progress should be reported, on the ground that this was an attempt to fritter away all the securities given in the Land Purchase Acts.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said the clause did not destroy the security.

DR. CLARKE said that a large part of the Bill had been got through that night, and therefore he thought that the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House might consent to the discussion being adjourned.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY hoped that the hon. Gentleman would withdraw his Motion for reporting progress, because, as soon as the clauses relating to this branch of the subject were got through, he himself would move that progress be reported.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn; clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 21,—

ABOLITION OF COUNTY PERCENTAGE.

The amount which under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, is required to be applied as county percentage shall, when received in respect of an instalment of the annuity falling due after the commencement of this Act, cease to be so applied and shall be paid to the National Debt Commissioners and applied as a portion of the purchase annuity which represents repayment of capital.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 22,—

ABOLITION OF PURCHASER'S INSURANCE MONEY.

In the case of any advance after the commencement of this Act for the purchase of a holding, purchaser's insurance money shall not be payable.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 23,—

AS TO GUARANTEE DEPOSIT.

(1.) The Land Commission on making an advance may dispense with the whole or any part of the guarantee deposit being made or retained if they think the security for the repayment of the advance is sufficient without it.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, after the word "advance," to insert the words, "the Land Purchase Act." He submitted that the Treasury proposed to vary the terms upon which the guarantee deposit was made. Its retention was being provided for longer than was originally intended. That being so, the fair thing to do would be to put all guarantee deposits on the same basis, and give the Land Commission the general discretion given by Sub-section 2 of the clause.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR intimated that he could not accept the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 23 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

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## COAL MINES REGULATION ACT (1887) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by Standing Committee), deferred till Monday next.

## UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

## CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) BILL.

Further Proceeding on Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee) deferred till Thursday.

## MILITARY WORKS [MONEY].

Committee thereupon deferred till To-morrow.

## LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

Third Reading deferred till Thursday.

## AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS' AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## FINANCE BILL.

Third Reading deferred till To-morrow.

## TRUCK BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

## COLLECTING SOCIETIES (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

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## FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

Considered in Committee (having been re-committed), and reported, without Amendment; Bill read the Third time, and passed.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [19th May] on Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), further adjourned till Thursday.

## ELECTION PETITIONS BILL [H.L.].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn.

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## TELEGRAPH MONEY BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

## MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

## WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY GUARANTEE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

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## LABOURERS (IRELAND) BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered; Bill read the Third time, and passed.

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## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

## MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [15th May] further adjourned till Thursday.

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## LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

Order for Committee read, and discharged:—Bill withdrawn.

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## RAILWAYS (IRELAND) ADVANCES.

Considered in Committee.

Resolved,

That it is expedient to authorise the Treasury to make Advances, not exceeding £500,000 at any one time, under any Act of the present Session to facilitate the construction of Railways in Ireland, and for that purpose to borrow from the National Debt Commissioners the sums that may be required, such sums to be repaid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, and, if those moneys are insufficient, out of the Consolidated Fund.—*(Mr. Gerald Balfour.)*

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at a Quarter before Three o'clock.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Wednesday, 22nd July 1896.*

## POOR LAW SCHOOLS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Return presented,— relative thereto [ordered 19th May; Lord Warkworth]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.—[No. 308.]

## PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (MARINERS' VOTES) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged:—Bill withdrawn.

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

## LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman of Ways and Means, in the Chair.]

(Progress, 21st July.)

Clause 24,—

### ADVANCE BY MEANS OF MONEY IN PLACE OF STOCK.

As respects every advance under the Land Purchase Acts for a purchase in pursuance of an agreement made after the commencement of this Act, the following provisions shall have effect; (that is to say,)

(*a.*) The advance shall be made by means of money and not of guaranteed land stock, and guaranteed land stock shall cease to be issued, and everything which under the said Acts may be done by means of a transfer or issue of guaranteed land stock may be done by the payment of a sum of money equal to the nominal amount of that stock.

(*b.*) The sums required by the Land Commission for advances shall be advances to them by the National Debt Commissioners in pursuance of Section one of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1888.

(*c.*) The Land Commission shall pay out of the Land Purchase account to the National Debt Commissioners an amount equal to the aggregate of the current half-yearly instalments of the purchase annuities on all the advances and the National Debt Commissioners shall, in manner prescribed by the Treasury, ascertain the portion of such payments which represents repayment of capital, and shall accumulate the same for the purpose of discharging the said advances.

(*d.*) Sub-section four of Section four, and Section six, of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, shall have effect as if the payments directed by this section to be made to the National Debt Commissioners were substituted for the dividends and sinking fund payments, and Sub-section four of Section four and Sub-section two of Section nine, and Sub-section ten of Section fifteen of the said Act shall have effect as if the accumulation of that portion of the purchase annuity which represents capital were substituted for the sinking fund, and as if that portion of the payments made to the National Debt Commissioners which represents the repayment of capital were substituted for the sinking fund payments paid out of the purchase annuities.

(*e.*) The power of making rules under Section twenty-seven of the said Act shall extend to the making of rules for carrying into effect this section.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.) moved in paragraph (*a*) to leave out the words "money and not of," so as to provide that money should not be paid in lieu of guaranteed land stock in advances under the Land Purchase Acts. He said the Amendment affected the success or non-success of the purchase portion of the Bill. He therefore asked the Government to give it their favourable consideration. It would inflict a hardship on nobody; it was purely a matter of routine, and perhaps the Government would see their way to accept it.

Mr. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) supported the Amendment. He had always thought that the original creation of Guaranteed Land Stock was a financial mistake, and that it would have been infinitely better to have given the landlords Consols, for neither the State nor the tenant got any advantage from the additional quarter per cent. interest on the Guaranteed Land Stock, owing to the small amount of that stock in the market. Indeed, he had never been able to understand the reason for creating a separate stock for the purposes of land purchase. What he would suggest was that the Government should come to a compromise in the matter, and that instead of stopping the issue of the stock they should alter the character of the stock issued, and make it Consols. The landlords would be as much benefited by getting Consols as by getting Guaranteed Land Stock; the additional quarter per cent. would be saved to the State, and the tenant would get all the advantages he now got. The amount of money involved was 33 millions sterling. The section proposed that the rate of interest on that large sum should be left entirely to the Treasury, or to the National Debt Commissioners, which was part and parcel of the Treasury, to prescribe; and it was to be prescribed by the Treasury every half-year in respect of the half-year that was passed. It would, therefore, be impossible for the tenant to know what rate of interest he would have to pay six months ahead. The only thing he would know would be that the interest could not exceed 4 per cent. It was possible, for instance, that the Treasury might prescribe 3 per cent. to be the rate of interest which was, of course, a great deal more than was at present charged, and a half per cent. more than the rate of interest at which the Government could borrow in the open market. The tenant, in these circumstances, would feel that he was charged more than he ought to be charged. It was, therefore, absolutely clear that, if the Government left to the Treasury this unprecedented and unreasonable power of prescribing every half-year what they considered to be the proper rate of interest that should be charged the tenant-purchasers for the past half-year in respect to this large sum of money, it would inevitably lead to conflicts between the tenant-purchasers and the State, and to angry Debates in the House. The National Debt Commissioners had a difficulty in making out the money to pay the 2½ per cent. interest on the Savings Banks Account, and there was nothing to prevent them from charging 3 per cent. interest on the tenant-purchasers in order to enable them to square the Savings Banks Account. It would merely be a swindle of the kind that the Treasury had often perpetrated before. He could hardly conceive that the Government realised that they were leaving this enormous power in the hands of the Treasury. The difficulty would be met by the issue of some form of stock, such as Consols, at a fixed rate of interest.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) said the object of the clause was to substitute cash for Guaranteed Land Stock in the case of advances to the landlord under the Land Purchase Acts. The Guaranteed Land Stock stood in the market at £110, which was a considerable premium; and it seemed unreasonable to continue a system under which the vendor received £130 really for every £110 nominally, which was practically an advance from the State of 10 per cent. The hon. Member for Londonderry complained that the scheme as it stood would leave to the Treasury the fixing of the rate of interest at which the sinking fund might be accumulated.

MR. KNOX said his complaint was more than that. The Treasury, besides fixing the rate on the sinking fund, which, perhaps, was unavoidable, also fixed the rate of interest on the loan.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR thought it would not be possible for the Treasury to do that. He thought the rate of interest on the loan was fixed by law—[*cries of* "No!"]—or, at any rate, by a rule laid down by the Treasury beforehand, and that it would not be possible for the Treasury to alter it by an *ex post facto* arrangement. The Treasury at the present time loaned a considerable amount of money under the Local Loans Fund. The rate of interest under that system was constantly complained of by Irish Members and others. But why was it difficult and impossible to alter that rate of interest for the borrowers? Simply because the stock had been issued, and it was necessary to pay the interest on that stock; and the system proposed by the Amendment was really a repetition of the Local Loans Fund system. He also thought the hon. Member underrated the power of the Irish Members when he said that they could not effectively criticise the action of the Treasury were the Treasury to raise the rate of interest on the tenant-purchasers. He believed the Irish Members could not only effectively criticise it, but effectively prevent it. It would not be possible for the Treasury, in face of such opposition—to say nothing of the sense of justice of the House—to increase the burden of the Irish tenant in order to relieve somebody else. He could hardly believe the hon. Member seriously maintained that such a thing was possible.

MR. KNOX asked the right hon. Gentleman to say what was to be the rate of interest as he read the clause.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that it would be 2¾ per cent. If stock were issued to supply the money to be advanced to borrowers, the difficulty of altering the interest was very great indeed—practically prohibitive.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) pointed out that if the purchase-money were paid in stock which was at a premium of 10 per cent., it was obvious that the tenant would be able to buy his holding more cheaply; and now the Government were going to withdraw that bonus. When land stock was at 93 the Government absolutely refused to interfere, though urgent appeals were addressed to them. By this clause the Treasury was left to fix what interest they liked. It was idle to talk of the Treasury not daring to make changes which would be opposed by the Irish Members. The other day, when Irishmen of all parties joined in asking the Government to undo what was admitted to be a dirty trick on the part of the Treasury, they were met by a *non possumus.* How could private Members follow the operations of the Treasury, which were always as secret as possible? If this change were made the tenant ought to be recouped by some change in the regulations.

SIR THOMAS LEA (Londonderry, S.) said that this was not merely a question of the tenant's interest, but of the promotion of land purchase in Ireland. The lower the rate at which money could be borrowed, the better the terms on which the tenant could buy and the landlord could sell. The Treasury ought to charge a lower rate of interest on all this land-purchase system.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) said that he was not in favour of land purchase, but he should support the Amendment. The action of the Treasury was mean and contemptible. Five years ago, when land stock and Consols were below par, the Treasury would not hear of paying cash.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that it was unreasonable to expect the Treasury to pay more than they had undertaken to pay. Every speaker had proceeded on the assumption that it was the interest of the Treasury which was at stake. That was an entire delusion. The interests at stake were those of the guarantee fund, and ultimately of the Irish ratepayer. What happened when this stock was appreciated? As the payments were made they had to be invested, and the best investment was to buy up the stock. If for every £100 of stock £110 had to be paid, a deficiency must occur some time, and that would have to be met out of the guarantee fund, because the Treasury was not in the first place liable.

COLONEL WARING (Down, N.) endorsed what had fallen from Nationalist Members. He spoke as one of those who differed from the general impression as to the desirability of land purchase, being entirely sceptical as to its alleged ultimate benefits. In fact he believed that half a century hence its results would be disastrous to Ireland. Therefore he spoke in an entirely disinterested manner when he said that if the Government really wished to kill their own pet project nothing would be more calculated to bring that about than the proposed change from land stock to coin. When in 1891 the hon. Member for South Hunts proposed that coin should be paid instead of land stock they said, "Oh, no; it is quite impossible that the Treasury could undertake to find coin." The attitude of the Treasury was, "Heads I win; tails you lose."

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) contended that in this matter the Government were acting with great unfairness both to landlords and tenants. God knows, the Government need not cheat their own friends. [*Laughter and cheers.*] He did not blame the Chief Secretary; he did not believe he had a bit to do with it; it was another example of the characteristic meanness of the Treasury. These men sitting in Whitehall were constantly on the watch to see how they could rob the unfortunate country. He hoped the landlords would join with the Nationalist Members in this matter, and he thought that united they should be strong enough to beat the Government.

MR. SMITH-BARRY (Hunts, S.) supported the Amendment, although in doing so he admitted he might appear very inconsistent. In 1891 he moved an Amendment that the landlords should be paid in cash instead of in land stock, and at that time he was opposed by every section in the House. At that time it was probable that land stock would stand at considerably below par. He was gently sat upon and crushed by the First Lord of the Admiralty, then Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was told by Mr. Sexton that his proposal was one of "extreme audacity." The hon. Member for Derry City said that if the hon. Member brought forward many Amendments like this the sooner the Government got rid of him and provided him with a place elsewhere the better. [*Laughter.*] The hon. Member for Northampton said this was an instance of "the reckless greed of Irish landlords"—[*laughter*]—and the Leader of the Opposition said this was "the coolest of all proposals" and that "here was a typical Irish landlord who comes here asking for more." Of course the typical Irish landlord was the most horrible thing that could occur to anybody's mind. [*Laughter.*] But now that this stock, instead of standing below par, was very much above par, the Treasury stepped in and said—Well, you shall not have the benefit of it. That was so like them. [*Laughter.*] He hoped the Government, in the interests of purchase, which they had at heart, would withdraw the proposal they had made.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) urged the Government not to take the responsibility of refusing a request which came to them from all sections of Irish Members. Under the existing law the machinery of land purchase had come almost to a standstill in Ireland, and one object of this Measure was to remove the clogs and defects in the machinery. But if the Government insisted on keeping this clause in the Bill they would be creating a new obstacle in the way of the working of land purchase. No matter how much trouble the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary and the Leader of the House, whom he was glad to see in his place during this discussion, had taken in considering this question of land purchase, they could not with any confidence set up their opinion as better than the opinion of all sections of Irishmen who had studied the matter.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR did not think hon. Members quite realised the difficulties that would ensue if the Amendment were adopted. They had to consider the whole financial arrangements in connection with land purchase, and he must repeat, that if the Amendment were accepted the result would be, not to give an advantage to the Treasury, but simply to place a burden upon the Guarantee Fund—[*cries of* "No!"]—yes, that was so, and he had not heard a single argument to the contrary—which ultimately the ratepayers of Ireland would have to bear. [MR. KNOX *dissented.*] The hon. Member shook his head, but not one speaker had got up to say that was not the fact. Hon. Members must show that this loss would not fall on the Guarantee Fund, and up to the present they had failed to do this. When this stock was originally created the right hon. Member for Wolverhampton objected to its creation on the ground that it would be more valuable than Consols, pointing out that they were bound to give the landlord entitled to receive £100 or £1,000 the equivalent of that amount and nothing more. It had been shown how extremely difficult it was to forecast what the fluctuations of the stock might be, but, with the price of Guaranteed Stock at £112, it was obvious that if this enormous advance in the price could have been foreseen Parliament would not have agreed to the proposal then made and accepted. This Amendment had been supported on the ground that it would give a stimulus to purchase. It might do so, but he did not know how the £10 or £12 would be divided. Possibly, the landlord would get the whole of it, or possibly it would be partly divided between the landlord and the tenant. It would be impossible at the present time to raise the general question of interest. That was part of a large question, and it would have to be raised as part of a large question; but if they were now going to continue to issue stock instead of cash they made it far more difficult to adjust the interest to be paid by tenant-purchasers when the rate of interest fell than would be the case in the proposal of the Bill. He appealed, therefore, to the House to leave the Government proposal as it stood.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.), who rose amid cries of "Oh!" said that the Government had been told by the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean that it would be the duty of hon. Members to intervene in the discussion on this part of the Bill so far as the clause dealt with the safeguarding of general financial interests. They had now the opportunity of doing so, and to his great surprise the only speech which had been made was one in which the hon. Gentleman indicated that he was willing to support the Amendment, which would not, if carried out, have the effect of putting the purchase of Irish land on an equitable basis. Irish Members on both sides had apparently arrived at the opinion that this was a good opportunity to get out of a hard-hearted Treasury—[*cheers*]—what the Treasury were unwilling to give. He should have been glad if the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the late Unionist Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Lord of the Admiralty, had been present to deal with the arguments, because they were necessarily more familiar than he was with the financial aspects of the question; but he could not refrain from pointing out to the landowners on his own side of the House that if any of this money was to go to the tenant at all it must be, and could only be, if the land in Ireland was to be sold below its nominal value. On the face of it it was manifest that the landlord would get the whole of the bonus; if the tenant was to get any of it at all it was because the landlord sold nominally at 13 or 14 years' purchase land for which he would get 15 or 16 years' purchase in consequence of the premium. He did not know whether his hon. Friends contemplated this result with equanimity. He believed that they had a strong objection to Clause 34 on the ground—he thought the illusory ground—that it would have the effect of permitting the Landed Estates Court to deal largely with cases of sale, and that this would have the effect of lowering the nominal value of land in Ireland. If the tenant was to get any profit out of this Amendment it could only be because the landlords were going to permit the land of Ireland to be sold at a price below that at which it could be sold. In all probability the money would not go in large quantities to the tenants, but it would, for the most part, go straight to the landlords if the Commissioners of Sales did their duty. He admitted that it was hard to say so; but it must be understood that, so far as it was a bonus, it was a bonus which, if it went to the tenants, went to them at the expense of the landlords. He asked all hon. Members interested in sound finance, whether it was a tolerable transaction that the House should deliberately decide that the State or the Guarantee Fund was to lend landlords and tenants, for the sale and purchase of land in Ireland, money which could only be repaid by investing the Sinking Fund at a much lower rate of interest than that which was got for the principal. This had not been supported as a financial transaction by any hon. Member; it was supported simply on the ground that it was a bonus from the Treasury to carry out a great national undertaking. He admitted the value of that national undertaking. He had been the most ardent advocate of purchase; he had perhaps done as much as any man to promote purchase—at all events he had striven to do so. But if purchase could only go on by means of some bonus of this kind, let the House have the courage of its opinions and frankly put down in the Bill that the value of land should be paid in cash to the tenant or landlord, and that in addition there was to be thrown in 10, 15, or 20 per cent. in order to promote and smooth the working of the purchase wheels. He asked the House to remember that while the premium was only 10 or 12 per cent. it might rise to 20, or it might fall to nothing. If their object was to put a bonus on land sales let it be a bonus which did not vary in its amount with the accidents of the English money market; let it be a fixed amount in order to induce persons to carry out the transaction for the benefit of the community at large. It was not reasonable finance, it was not the way to deal with any great national transaction of this kind, and he hoped that the Government would be supported by all lovers of sound finance in the House.

Question put, "That the words 'money and not of' stand part of the clause."

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ayes | ... | ... | ... | 86 |
| Noes | ... | ... | ... | 99 |

## DIVISION LIST—No. 343.

### AYES.

Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Mnchr)
Balfour, Gerald Wm. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Francis Tress (Windsor)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bethell, Commander
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Campbell, James A.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Channing, Francis Allston
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cox, Robert
Cruddas, William Donaldson
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S
Fardell, Thomas George
Finch, George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Fortescue
Folkestone, Viscount
Fry, Lewis
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Howard, Joseph
Howell, William Tudor
Isaacson, Frederick Wootton
Kenny, William
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Edwin (Cornwall)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans'a
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R. (Essex)
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Lvrpol)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Malcolm, Ian
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Milbank, Powlett Charles John
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monckton, Edward Philip
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Arthur (Darlington)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pryce-Jones, Edward
Purvis, Robert
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sidebotham J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stone, Sir John Benjamin
Strutt, Hen. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Usborne, Thomas
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Warkworth, Lord
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worc'sh., N.)
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
TELLERS for the AYES, Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

### NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Austin, M, (Limerick, W.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Blake, Edward
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn)
Brigg, John
Caldwell, James
Carew, James Laurence
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Commins, Andrew
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Daly, James
Dane, Richard M.
Davies, W. Rees- (Pembrokesh.)
Denny, Colonel
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Ellis, Thos. Edw. (Merionethsh.
Engledow, Charles John
Farrell, James P. (Cavan, W.)
Farrell, Thomas J. (Kerry, S.)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William (Dublin)
FitzGerald, R. Uniacke Penrose
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gedge, Sydney
Gibney, James
Gold, Charles
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John (Carlow)
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, Luke Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Healy, Thomas J. (Wexford)
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holburn, J. G.
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jordon, Jeremiah
Kilbride, Denis
Knox, Edmund Francis Vesey
Lambert, George
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Lecky, William Edward H.
Macaleese, Daniel
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
McCalmont, Maj.-Gn. (Ant'm. N)
McCartan, Michael
M'Hugh, E. (Armagh, S.)
McKenna, Reginald
McLeod, John
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morris, Samuel
Morrison, Walter
Murnaghan, George

*First Lord of the Treasury.*

Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pinkerton, John
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Rickett, J. Compton
Roche, Hon. James (East Kerry)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Saunderson, Col. Edw. James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw, William Rawson (Halifax)
Souttar, Robinson
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Tuite, James
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Waring, Col. Thomas
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Govan)

TELLERS for the NOES, Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Smith-Barry.

Amendment agreed to.

The announcement of the numbers was received with loud Nationalist cheers, and cries of "Resign."

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: This Amendment having been carried, it is not worth while to discuss the clause any further. Therefore I move —and I think it will be in the interest of business—that the clause be now negatived. Perhaps I should say that we reserve to ourselves the power of reconsidering this matter. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*]

MR. T. M. HEALY: So do we. [*Laughter.*]

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I will put the Motion now because I think that it is the general sense of the Committee that it should be put.

Clause 24 negatived.

Clause 25,—

EXPEDITING PROCEEDINGS ON SALES.

(1.) Where an agreement has been made for the purchase of a holding, and the Land Commission consider that the purchase money is adequate in amount, and are satisfied that the person purporting to be the landlord or his mortgagee or has, by himself or by his agent, or a receiver, been, for not less than six years, in receipt of the rents of the holding, and have ascertained in the prescribed manner that the estate in respect of which such person claims as landlord is sufficient to constitute him a person having power to sell under the Land Purchase Acts, he shall be deemed to be *primâ facie* entitled to carry such agreement into effect; but if it appears to the Land Commission that the said estate is a leasehold for years not renewable for ever, they shall cause the prescribed notice to be given to the person who is entitled in reversion on the expiration of the lease.

(2.) Where the Land Commission are satisfied that the persons purporting to be the landlord and the tenant are *primâ facie* entitled to carry into effect an agreement for the purchase of a holding, they shall, as soon as may be, make a vesting order to the effect that the amount of the advance be paid into the High Court to the prescribed credit to abide the order of that Court, and that on such payment the holding shall vest in the purchaser.

(3.) The vesting order shall be effectual to vest in the purchaser, and charge the purchase annuity on the fee simple and inheritance of the holding purchased, subject—

(*a.*) to such exceptions and reservations (if any) as may be specified in the agreement for purchase and approved by the Land Commission respecting and right reserved to the vendor or superior landlord as to mines, timber, aud fishery, or other rights; and

(*b.*) to any public rights affecting the holding; and

(*c.*) to the provisions of this Act respecting the tenant's interest, and respecting easements, rights, and privileges;

but, save as aforesaid, discharged from all claims, whether estates, charges, reservations, covenants, conditions, interests or incumbrances whatsoever, as well of Her Majesty the Queen, and any superior landlord, as of all other persons whomsoever (except the tenant and person claiming under him) who are interested in the holding, whether as incumbrancers or otherwise, and all such claims shall cease as against the holding, and shall attach to the purchase money paid into the High Court in respect of the holding, in like manner as immediately before the sale they attached to the holding.

(4.) The money so paid into the High Court shall be distributed and dealt with by that Court in like manner as if it were the proceeds of the sale of an estate sold under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, and for the purpose of such distribution of or dealing with the said money, the High Court may, if it appears to such Court necessary, ascertain the amount or value of such claims as above mentioned, and cause that amount or value to be discharged, redeemed, or satisfied out of the said money.

(5.) The vesting order shall be an order securing an advance within the meaning of section eighteen of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, and that section shall apply accordingly.

(6.) The interest vested by the vesting order in the purchaser shall be deemed to be a graft upon the previous interest of the tenant in the holding, and shall be subject to any rights or equities arising from its being such graft: Provided that any then subsisting charge on such previous interest which was created under any Act in respect of some improvement on the holding, shall be a charge on the estate vested in the purchaser by the vesting order next after the purchase-annuity.

(7.) If any guarantee deposit is paid or retained, the amount thereof shall be excepted from the payment into the High Court, and held by the Land Commission, but the vesting order shall take effect and the right to the deposit be determined, as if the amount had been paid into that Court with the rest of the purchase money.

(8.) Where the Judicial Commission certifies that the estate is free from incumbrances (as defined by the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887), and that the purchase money can be paid or distributed immediately, the advance need not be paid into the High Court, and this section shall apply in like manner as if it were so paid.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) moved to omit the provision that before using the powers conferred by the clause the Land Commission must consider that purchase money agreed to be given for a holding was adequate in amount. He explained that hitherto the function of the Land Commission had merely been to guard the State against loss. It was not their business to ascertain whether the bargain embodied in the purchase agreement was a bad bargain for either the landlord or the tenant, and in fact there was a widespread opinion that the Commission had sanctioned a number of bargains which were unfavourable to tenants. The words which he proposed to omit from the clause directed the Commission to ascertain that the landlord was receiving an adequate price for the property sold. To agree to a provision of that kind would be bad policy in the interests of land purchase. Why, when a landlord was ready to sell his property at 15 years' purchase, should the Commission intervene and insist that he ought to get a higher price?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON Londonderry, N.) said that it was impossible to leave the practice relating to this subject as it stood at present, because the clause would introduce a change which would affect that practice radically. At present the Land Commission did not advance money until they had ascertained that the landlord had a good title, but this clause would sanction an advance before it was ascertained that the landlord had an absolutely good title. It might be that in some cases the title would be defective, and this provision as to the adequacy of the amount of the purchase money was necessary in order to safeguard the interests of the parties really entitled to the property.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that of course he quite agreed that this clause enabled a landlord in possession of land to sell it if he could make out a good title, but his Amendment was intended to limit its operation to the case only of a man who was not entitled to land getting it into his possession somehow, and then attempting to sell it to the tenant. The words of the clause went a great deal farther than was necessary, because the intention of the Government must be that the clause was to apply to all transactions. As the clause stood it would only lead to doubt, difficulty, and embarrassment in cases where the landlord had a good title, because in such cases the Land Commissioner would have to take up the position of an inquisitor into the landlord's title before the completion of the purchase, and the delay would be a very serious matter indeed. In his view the proposal in the clause was not a reasonable one. He suggested that there was a possibility of devising some form of words that would limit the operation of the clause to the cases in which there was some doubt about the title of the landlord. ["Hear, hear!"]

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that he quite concurred that the operation of the clause should be limited to cases in which the landlord had a doubtful title, and might be seeking to convert into money the property of other people, but he thought that the clause was perfectly clear upon the point, and that the Amendment was therefore unnecessary. ["Hear, hear!"]

COLONEL WARING said that another reason why the words which it was proposed by the Amendment to omit should be retained was that they formed a protection to the landlords.

MR. T. M. HEALY thought that the clause as it stood would place the Land Judge in a very invidious position as between the incumbrancer on the one hand and the tenant on the other. The Land Judge would have to take alternately the characters of Dr. Jekyll and

Mr. Hyde, having a double and conflicting duty to discharge. [" Hear ! "]

Colonel SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) said that it appeared to him that the words in question were of great importance and ought to be kept in the clause, otherwise a man with a shaky title would be able to sell the land to the tenants. It was necessary that the rights of the real owner should be protected.

Mr. DILLON remarked that the Judge of the Land Court had come to be looked upon as the agent for bankrupt estates in Ireland. If the hon. Member did not obtain a more satisfactory answer than he had received from the right hon. Gentleman the Attorney General for Ireland, he shoud advise him to press his Amendment to a Division. The Land Commission ought to have a discretionary power to see that the landlord did not get more for his land than it was worth. If the Government would undertake to withdraw these words, and on Report substitute words which would provide against fraud or collusion, hon. Members on that side of the House would be satisfied, but they objected to words such as those they now sought to have deleted, and which were calculated to introduce a vicious practice into the whole system of the administration so far as it related to land purchase.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND thought the case would be met if he accepted the following Amendment, to be inserted at the end of sub-section (1) :—

> " Provided always that, where the Land Commission are satisfied that the landlord has a good and marketable title to the holding, they shall not be required to consider whether the purchase money is adequate in amount."

Mr. MAURICE HEALY agreed.

Amendment suggested by the Attorney General for Ireland made.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved to omit Paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (3). The hon. and learned Member contended that the sub-section introduced a new principle into land purchase transactions, so far as they were carried out by vesting order. Some years ago they were not carried out by vesting order but by conveyance from the vendor, and while that system was in vogue considerable discussion arose in that House about some transactions which had taken place on the Marquess of Waterford's estate, in which the landlord had agreed to sell to the tenants, but had made all kinds of reservations to himself, the matter afterwards leading to great difficulties. Up to the present it had been impossible to carry out any sale of that character, as, since 1887, the Land Commission had proceeded entirely by vesting order. But the Government now proposed to revive the vicious practice which prevailed prior to the system of the vesting order which was adopted by the Land Commission in 1887. The landlord would be thus enabled to sell his estate to his tenants, and at the same time reserve to himself the timber, turbary, mining, and fishery rights appertaining to any of the holding. When the landlord parted with the whole of his estate, he ought to be done with it. When fixing the purchase price he based it on the whole value of the estate, so that if the proposal of the Government were adopted he would be reserving to himself these rights for nothing. He thought it was only reasonable that when the landlord had parted with the whole estate and received its full value, he should not be hereafter entitled to step in and assert some rights because, say, some minerals had been found to exist on some holding, of which he had never known before or taken any steps to discover. In his judgment this clause had been put in the Bill to enable the landlord to sell his estate and reserve to himself the sporting rights, but the sure way to secure that sport should continue in the country would be to provide that the tenant should not be deprived of the rights of sporting. What interest had the tenant in preserving game if it was only for the landlord ? He pressed the Government to accept the Amendment.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND hoped the hon. Member would not persevere with the Amendment. It was desirable to proceed by vesting order, which was a process both cheap and expeditious. The hon. Member objected to a vesting order being made which simply carried out the agreement between the parties. It would be an extraordinary thing if they were to prohibit the landlord and tenant from agreeing to the purchase for a certain sum, reserving any rights to the landlord that the tenant might be willing to have reserved. If the agreement was unjust or oppressive, or did not give adequate security to the State, they had the Land Commission to guard against that. The Land Commission must approve of the agreement, and the vesting order was only to be made to carry out an agreement of which they had approved. ["Hear, hear!"] He was of opinion that the adoption of such an Amendment as this would have the effect of impeding land purchase more, probably, than any other provision which could be introduced. ["Hear, hear!"]

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) observed that the hon. and learned Member had dealt with the clause as if it referred to the case of a landlord selling the whole of his estate, whereas it did nothing of the kind. It had reference to the sale of a holding upon any estate. As showing the necessity for the sub-section, he pointed out that there might be, forming portion of a large estate, a particular holding the parting with the sporting, timber, and mining rights which might vitiate the whole property. If the words of the sub-section were not retained, a purchase might be prevented where both parties were willing to buy and sell on an agreement based upon the principle of excluding certain rights. ["Hear, hear!"] He would go so far as to say that great injury had been done to the interests of Ireland by the fact that these Purchase Acts had not in any sense properly dealt with these fishing and sporting rights. He would give the Attorney General a concrete case. A tenant agreed with his landlord to buy a farm. The frontage of the farm was a salmon river. The tenant and landlord agreed on the purchase money, but the Land Commission refused to sanction the purchase unless the landlord gave up his salmon-fishing rights also. In view of a case of that kind, he would like to know from the Attorney General whether he thought this sub-section would really be operative.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY wished to make an appeal to the Committee on this subject. The object of the clause was merely to enable a contract between the parties to be made effective. The hon. Member for Cork was attempting to introduce a very fundamental change in the system of land purchase, and his hon. and gallant Friend the Member for Great Yarmouth appeared to desire to see another change introduced, but in an opposite direction. He would earnestly beg the hon. Gentleman opposite not to press his Amendment at this stage. He was very anxious to make rapid progress with this part of the Bill this afternoon, and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not delay the Committee by a discussion which was really not quite germane to the subject of the clause.

MR. T. M. HEALY considered that, where sporting rights were reserved to the landlord, there should be a provision in all such cases that the tenant should be represented by a solicitor. It was very desirable in many cases that Ireland should have preserves. It was a good marketable thing if they had a grouse moor, for instance. It brought an enormous number of people into the country, and they spent their money very freely. But the moment the tenant, who in many cases could not read or write, thought he was "diddled," he turned poacher. ["Hear, hear!"]

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: He does that naturally. [*Laughter.*]

AN HON. MEMBER: Quite right too. [*Laughter.*]

MR. T. M. HEALY said he did not want to go into the game question, but he did want to suggest that where these rights were reserved it should only be done where the tenant was advised by a solicitor.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he could not accept that suggestion. He did not see how it was possible to include in the Bill such a provision as that. Their object was to promote purchase as far as possible. He was afraid that, if landlords were to be prevented from reserving such rights as were contemplated by the clause, in many cases they would refuse to sell. He therefore appealed to the hon. Member not to press his Amendment, which could only have the effect of preventing a sale in many cases. As regarded any protection required by the tenant, he would remind the hon. Member for North Louth that every agreement entered into between a landlord and a tenant had to receive the approval of the Commission before it became effective.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said a great deal depended upon the contracting parties. The Land Commission would not see the man who was making the contract. They would only deal with the names, and he did think that, in those cases where the sporting rights were reserved to the landlord, the tenant should be separately represented.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY said the First Lord of the Treasury seemed to think that by his Amendment he was seeking to introduce some new form of enactment, and a principle wholly new to the Purchase Acts. The fact was quite the contrary. It was the clause that was novel. He had no desire to lengthen the Debate or to press the Government unduly, but he would appeal to them to consider the matter in some way between this and Report. The matter plainly was one that required some consideration. In the majority of cases the agreement was entered into by the tenants without legal advice, and though he thought it would be an unfortunate thing for land purchase if a tenant were obliged to have a solicitor in every case, still they must face the fact that the tenants did enter into these agreements without legal advice, and that in some cases, at any rate, injustice might be done by this Clause 7.

Mr. T. M. HEALY suggested that the Government should insert in the subsection the words—

> "and the Land Commission are satisfied that the purchaser understands the nature and character of the reservations."

That would entirely obviate any suggestion that the man was being cheated, or of distress or fraud.

Colonel SAUNDERSON did not think that that would do, because it would involve an intellectual examination of the tenant on the part of the Commission.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said there would be no such difficulty. There might be an affidavit by the solicitor to the landlord, stating that the nature and character of the reservations were explained to the tenant.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said there could be no difference of opinion between the two sides of the House as to the desirability of a tenant and his landlord, too, understanding what was really the transaction in which they were engaging. It was not so obvious whether the suggestion of the hon. and learned Member was a workable suggestion. It required consideration and inquiry, and that consideration and inquiry would be given to it.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) thought this was an important matter in which the tenants throughout the country were just as much interested as the landlord. The tenants had not themselves the opportunity of preserving game, but they desired that it should be preserved. What they objected to was to be taken advantage of. All that was required was a fair and clear understanding between the landlord and the tenant. Let the tenant know where he stood in the matter, and as long as the thing was straightforward and plain he believed that all over the country the tenants would endeavour to carry the clause out.

Mr. SMITH-BARRY (Hunts, Huntingdon) said he quite agreed that it was desirable that the tenant should know how he stood, but he could not help thinking that already machinery existed under which the Land Commissioners could find out what the circumstances were and whether the tenant understood the reservations or not.

Mr. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.) remarked that, a good deal having been said about the landlords' rights in the matter of sporting, he hoped the Committee would allow him to say a word about another individual — the poacher. He maintained that the poacher represented the natural right of the whole community to fish in all rivers—[*laughter*]—and he denied the right of either tenants or landlords to impose a rent upon any man, woman, or child in Ireland who wished to fish or pursue game. [*Laughter and cries of* "Oh!"] He could scarcely imagine anything more cowardly than the hunting of a timid hare or rabbit by either landlord or tenant. ["Hear, hear!"] He had no sympathy whatever with those so-called rights of sporting.

Mr. HORACE PLUNKETT (Dublin Co., S.) said that, if the views of the hon. Member were admitted and acted upon, game would soon entirely disappear from Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. W. REDMOND said that in his opinion poaching in Ireland had cost the country tens of thousands of pounds a year.

MR. DAVITT: And lessened the number of flunkeys.

MR. W. REDMOND said that, as to the remark just made by the hon. Member, his experience of sporting and shooting districts in Ireland was that large numbers of those whom the hon. Member called flunkeys obtained employment and considerable sums of money to which they looked forward every year, through the sporting, and which actually enabled them, in many cases, to pay their rent. [*Cheers.*] No sportsman would object to a man taking a hare or rabbit now and again for his own use upon asking for it. [*Laughter.*] The distinction he desired to draw would be rightly understood by every person. Where there was plenty of game it was a common practice during the season for people in Ireland to ask leave to obtain a hare or a little game now and then. He did not call that poaching. What he called poaching was a man snaring hares and grouse, killing them in large numbers, and sending them to market. He was in favour of sporting in Ireland, and he only wished there was more of it. [*Cheers.*]

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. J. J. SHEE (Waterford, W.) proposed to add to the sub-section, as a protection to the tenant, the words—

> "Provided that the separate consideration be specified in the agreement for purchase in respect of the said rights."

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said the Amendment would give the tenant no further protection, and it was therefore unnecessary.

Amendment negatived.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB moved, at the end of Sub-section (4), to insert—

> "Provided always, that, until such distribution as aforesaid (but without prejudice to the rights of incumbrancers), interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum shall be paid by the Land Commission to the person who for the time being would, but for the sale thereof, have been entitled to the rent and profits of the lands in respect of which the said money has been paid into court."

MR. GERALD BALFOUR submitted that this Amendment was out of order, in accordance with a ruling which the Chairman had already given.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS ruled the Amendment out of order.

MR. KNOX moved to add the following new sub-section to the clause:—

> "(9) The Land Commission or the High Court shall not in any case be empowered to make any further requisition as to title than a purchaser would be entitled to make under the Vendor and Purchaser Act, 1874."

He remarked that few people had any idea of the absurd abuses and the wanton expense that had been inflicted on Ireland under the rules laid down relating to requisitions as to title. He had, in regard to cases in his own experience, been horrified by the extraordinary, absurd, and stupid requisitions which had been made by the Land Commission, involving great expense. The Court had proceeded on the bad principles that had grown up in the Landed Estates Court in Ireland. The Commissioners thought they were at liberty to make inquiries about anything relating to an estate—inquiries extending as far back as the Cromwellian settlements, and even further. In a case in which he was himself concerned, they made inquiries about a supposed eviction for non-payment of lay tithes that took place in the early part of the last century. He had actually to go to the expense of obtaining affidavits from all those connected with the estate then living, to say that as far as they knew those tithes had never been demanded. That was all that could be done, because there was no record, and yet the matter in hand was delayed for three months by that absurd requisition. In England such a thing could and would be avoided by the vendor. This system had been kept up in the corrupt interest of those family solicitors who had been the bane of every attempt to improve the transfer of land. He strongly urged the Attorney General to accept the Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY hoped the Government would not resist the Amendment, and pointed out that the Vendor and Purchaser Act was passed by a Conservative Government 22 years ago. The only persons concerned in the matter were the landlord on the one hand and the tenant on the other, and both parties agreed that this would be a very useful reform. At present an unfortunate landlord was, in order to make good his title, put to the expense of hundreds of pounds, all of which went into the pockets of the solicitor, and the interest of the tenant was hung up, sometimes for a couple of years, while the landlord was engaged in that process.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND pointed out that the Vendor and Purchaser Act only dealt with private vendors and purchasers, and provided that the purchaser should be able to require the vendor to furnish only certain specified searches. The Government were anxious to cheapen and expedite purchase in every way possible, and, if the hon. Member would withdraw his Amendment, they would see whether anything could be done to meet his views.

COLONEL WARING hoped the Government would see their way to accept the Amendment, because without it the whole of the Purchase Clauses might just as well be put in the waste-paper basket.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the Amendment only appeared on the Paper that morning, and therefore they had not had time to consider it fully. If they found it was possible to accept it they would do so.

MR. KNOX, in asking leave to withdraw the Amendment, said that, unless the change he suggested were made, a landlord would be wise not to avail himself of the procedure under the clause.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

On the return of the CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, after the usual interval,

Motion made, "That Clause 25 stand part of the Bill."

*SIR J. COLOMB said he did not think the intending selling landlord would be in the least encouraged by this clause. When they wanted to ascertain what was to happen when the money was not being lodged in Court, they found that the clause was really one which legislated by reference. The clause provided that the money, when lodged in Court, was to be dealt with under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858; he presumed the reference was to Clause 70 of that Act, and Clause 70 referred to two different Acts passed 10 and 11 years before the Act of 1858. He thought the Government ought to make it perfectly clear what they meant by this clause, and what were the prospects of the landlord who agreed to sell to the tenant under circumstances that made him doubt that he was capable of proving his title. Under the clause the purchase money for the holding was to be paid into Court, where it was to remain until title to the land had been inquired into. What he desired to know was what amount of interest, if any, was to be paid pending this inquiry into the title of the landlord. The landlord had entered into an agreement under which he was to get the purchase money in a lump sum, and, the money having been paid into Court, the Land Court absolved the tenant from his share of liability under the agreement. The question in these circumstances was what interest was the landlord to receive upon his own money which was locked up pending the inquiry into his title. It was said that the clause was not to operate in cases where the landlord's title was clear, but in that case the operation of the clause would be to deter any landlord whose title was open to the slightest doubt from entering into any agreement with his tenant for the sale to him of his holding. It was important that this point should be completely cleared up, because in the vast number of cases the title to land in Ireland was open to doubt. Unless he got a satisfactory answer from the Government upon this point he should be compelled to divide upon the Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"]

COLONEL WARING said that he did not think that the title to land in Ireland was so much open to doubt as that when lawyers got hold of titles they always raised difficulties about them. Before a man could be said to have a good title he must show that every charge upon his estate since 1703 had been satisfied and cleared off. ["Hear!"]

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that the answer to the question whether any, and if so, what interest would be paid upon the purchase money paid into Court in respect of a holding during the period occupied in investigating the doubtful title of a landlord, would really depend upon whether the Amendment which had been adopted by the Committee early in the day was to form part of the Bill finally or not. If it did, then the interest paid on the money so lodged would be 2¾ per cent., whereas if the money were merely lodged in Court as a security in place of the land, the interest paid would be that which the money fetched.

*SIR J. COLOMB said that he was much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for the explanation of the matter that he had given, and which he was glad to have elicited from the right hon. Gentleman.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 26,—

FRAMING OF AND DISPENSING WITH VESTING ORDER AND REGISTRATION OF TITLE ON PURCHASE.

(1.) The Land Commission shall prepare the vesting order, or, if they see fit to dispense therewith, shall fiat the agreement for the purchase of the holding, subject to such conditions, exceptions, and modifications as they they think necessary; and, on the advance being paid into the High Court, such fiat shall have effect as if it were a vesting order made by the Commission in relation to the holding purchased, and the provisions of this Act referring to vesting orders shall apply and be construed accordingly.

(2.) The Land Commission shall, immediately after the vesting order or fiat, prepare and transmit to the registering authority under the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, the prescribed particulars as to the holding, in order that the title of the purchaser to the ownership of the fee simple of the holding may be registered pursuant to that Act, and on such registration the registering authority shall transmit the land certificate to the Land Commission, to be held by them until the advance has been repaid.

(3.) Section thirty-four of the said Act (which relates to the correction and rectification of the register) shall extend to a vesting order or fiat as if it were the register.

(4.) An agreement for purchase, a vesting order, or fiat, shall not operate to convert the interest of the purchaser into real estate.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved to leave out all the words after the words "registered pursuant to that Act" in Sub-section (2). It was sought to introduce the words of the Amendment into the Bill to make it read in connection with the Registration of Title (Ireland) Act. This was an excellent Act, but it had been destroyed by the way it had been administered in Ireland. It was said that "God sends meat and the Devil sends cooks." The House might pass good legislation, but it was spoiled by the way it was administered. The object of the Registration of Title Act was to save law costs, but the moment the Act was passed the registration authorities in Ireland instead of trying to make it workable conceived it to be their duty to place every conceivable obstacle in its way. The first act of the Irish Land Commission was to make a rule absolutely nullifying the whole Act. Under the Registration of Title Act a man's title was proved by the production of his land certificate instead of a sheaf of title deeds, but the Land Commission impounded this certificate, so that if a tenant purchaser wanted an advance from a bank he had to give the bank a legal mortgage. He could not conceive what could be the object of the Land Commission. It could not be prejudiced by the tenant having possession of the land certificate. The Government proposed to give legal sanction to this extraordinary proceeding, and provide by express legal enactment that the certificate should be held until the advance was paid off. If the Committee accepted the proposal of the Bill they might as well repeal the Registration of Title Act at once, because the effect of this Bill was that until the Land Commission advance was paid off the Registration of Title Act would not affect any tenant purchaser.

MR. KNOX trusted the Chief Secretary would accept the Amendment. The Registration of Title Act was an excellent Act, carefully drawn by Mr. Justice Madden when Attorney General. But it had been killed by the absurd rule made by the Land Commission; secondly, by the gross inattention to their duty of the Land Commission in performing the statutory duty of seeing that the tenants who had already bought their land should have their titles registered free of charge; thirdly, by the way the Land Commission were treated by the Treasury; and fourthly, the inattention of the clerks of the Crown. If the Registration of Title Act was not to be properly carried out, let it be repealed at once. If the Land Commission imagined that if they allowed the land certificate to remain in the hands of the tenant, there might be some danger to the advance that was absurd. The *bonâ fide* purchaser would know that the advance was on the face of the certificate, and that that would be full notice to everybody. Everybody knew what these things were, and that the first charge on the holding was the charge to the Land Commission.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said these Amendments dealt almost entirely with administrative details. They were put down at short notice, and without having an opportunity of considering them he had difficulty in accepting or refusing to accept them. The present Amendment was only placed on the Paper that morning, and it had been impossible to communicate with the Department which it concerned. He suggested that the hon. Member should withdraw the Amendment for the present, that he might communicate with the Land Commission.

MR. T. M. HEALY trusted that when the Attorney General had communicated with the Land Commission he would express his opinion irrespective of the Land Commission, and not take a merely Departmental view of his position as Attorney General. The Commission had acted absolutely in repeal of an Act of Parliament. It was "a congested district of folly" in a great many respects.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that any decision the Government might come to would be on their own responsibility. But it was only fair the Government should have proper materials for a decision. While he was grateful to the Committee for the business-like way in which the discussion had been conducted, he was a little alarmed at its slowness. He was anxious that full time should be given to the discussion of Clause 4, and he hoped he should not be going beyond his province in asking for expedition.

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs) asked whether Clause 4 would be taken and the Committee stage of the Bill finished to-morrow?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY replied that that was the hope of the Government.

MR. MAURICE HEALY intimated that he would withdraw his Amendment. He hoped the Attorney General would give personal attention to the matter.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 26 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 27,—

AS TO REDEMPTION OR APPORTIONMENT OF ANNUITIES, RENT-CHARGES, ETC., UNDER 50 & 51 VICT., C. 33, S.S. 15, 16.

(1.) For the purpose of the distribution of, or other dealing with, an advance paid into the High Court under this Act, sections fifteen and sixteen of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, and any other unrepealed enactment in the Land Purchase Acts, or this Act, relating to the redemption or apportionment of charges on holdings or otherwise to the distribution of the purchase money of a holding, shall apply as if the High Court were the Land Commission and the money paid into that Court were the holding.

(2.) Where any annuity, rentcharge, or rent, ordered under the said sections to be redeemed is subject to any incumbrance as defined by the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, the High Court shall have the same power in relation to that incumbrance under the said section fifteen as that Court would have if the incumbrance were charged upon the land sold.

(3.) For the purpose of an agreement respecting the redemption price of any annuity, rentcharge, or rent apportioned under the said section sixteen, the High Court may determine the parties by whom such agreement may be made or by whom the consent may be given for the determination of the price by the High Court.

(4.) The said sections as amended by this section shall apply to any contingent liability for any annuity, rentcharge, or rent, in like manner as they apply to the annuity, rentcharge, or rent itself, and where any contingent liability has no appreciable value, the money may be distributed without regard to such liability.

**MR. DENIS KILBRIDE** (Galway, N.) moved to insert at the end of the clause :—

"(5) That the twentieth section of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, be retrospective, and apply to the reversion expectant on the termination of any lease."

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND** said the Amendment, which only appeared on the Paper that morning, raised the most peculiar, the most complicated, and the most uninviting question that could be raised in connection with the subject of Irish land. He would, however, consider the matter before Report, and see whether the intention of the hon. Member could be carried out.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 27 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 28,—

AS TO THE EASEMENTS, ETC., WHEN VESTING ORDER IS MADE.

(1.) A holding vested in a purchaser by a vesting order under this Act shall continue to have appurtenant thereto and to be subject to, as the case may be, any previously existing easements, rights, and appurtenances; and any privilege previously in fact enjoyed, whether by permission of the landlord or otherwise, in such manner and for such time that, if the holding had belonged to a different owner from the rest of the estate, it would have been an easement or right, shall be an easement or right within the meaning of this section, and shall be appurtenant to or exerciseable over the holding, as the case may be.

(2.) The vesting order may, if the Land Commission think fit, declare that the sale is made subject to or free from any particular easement, right, or appurtenance, and such declaration shall have full effect.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 29,—

LIABILITY OF ARREARS OF RENT, AND INTEREST ON PURCHASE MONEY AFTER AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE.

(1.) Where an agreement for the purchase of a holding is made after the commencement of this Act, and the Land Commission make an advance for such purchase, the purchaser shall be discharged from all liability to the vendor in respect of any liabilities affecting the holding at the date of the agreement, including all rent and arrears existing between the landlord and the tenant; but if the advance is refused the agreement shall be void, and the tenant shall be liable to pay rent as if the agreement had not been made.

(2.) Interest at the rate agreed on, or if no rate is agreed on, at the rate of *four* per cent. per annum, on the purchase money from the date of the said agreement until the day from which the purchase-annuity begins, shall be payable half-yearly on the *first day of May* and *first day of November* by the purchaser, and shall be paid to, and be collected and recoverable by, the Land Commission, in like manner as if it were an instalment of the purchase annuity charged upon the holding, and when received by them shall be paid to the person in receipt of the rent at the date of the agreement or such other person as may prove himself to be entitled thereto, and if the advance is refused, shall be allowed by the landlord to the tenant as a payment on account of rent.

**MR. T. M. HEALY** rose to move the omission of Sub-section (1).

***THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS**: I doubt if this Amendment is in order. If the first sub-section were omitted, the second sub-section could not stand alone, as it depends upon the first. The proper course for the hon. Member would be to move to omit the clause.

**MR. T. M. HEALY**: I will move to omit "Where," the first word of the sub-section.

***THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS**: That will not do, because the remainder of the sub-section will not make sense.

**MR. T. M. HEALY**: Then I will move to omit "Where" in order to insert "In the case of." I do it *pro forma*, in order to call attention to a personal grievance, because of the way the Government have acted in regard to this clause.

***THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS**: If the hon. and learned Gentleman moves that Amendment he will have to confine himself to the distinction between "Where" and "In the case of." [*Laughter.*] The hon. Gentleman cannot move to omit a word at the beginning of the clause in order to discuss the clause as a whole. The proper time for discussing the clause as a whole is when the clause as a whole is put.

**MR. T. M. HEALY** intimated that he would move the first of a series of Amendments which his hon. Friend the Member for Cork had upon the Paper. It was to leave out the word "make" ("the Land Commission make"), and to insert instead thereof the words "have sanctioned." When the Land Purchase Act of 1888 was before the House, the Government accepted from him an Amendment of the most valuable kind for the tenant, requiring that an order should be made by the Land Commission whenever an agreement to purchase was made. At the time when the Amendment was under consideration a member of the Land Commission—he would not mention the name—was sitting under the clock, and there was great tooing and froing between the Treasury Bench and under the clock, for it seemed this gentleman wanted to resist the Amendment on the ground that it would impose a little extra trouble on the Land Commission. The Amendment, however, was accepted, but the influence of the gentleman of the Land Commission was again apparent in the clause. Those gentlemen would like to have slipped through Parliament a provision which, while highly detrimental to the tenant, would excuse them from making an order in every case of an agreement to purchase being arranged between a landlord and a tenant. He, as one of the laziest men in the world, sympathised with anyone who wished to get out of doing anything, but he could not let this pass.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: Order, order! The hon. Member is now discussing the clause as a whole which, as I have said, cannot be done. He will have an opportunity of discussing the clause as a whole when the clause as a whole is put.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said he, of course, submitted to the ruling, but he thought it was no use in making a general protest when the clause was put. What he wanted was to get the clause amended. He asked the Government, therefore, why they proposed to change one of the provisions of the Act of 1888 which was favourable to the tenants?

Mr. MAURICE HEALY said the series of Amendments he had put down—of which this was the first—was intended to restore the law to its existing state.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND said he would accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved to leave out the words "the landlord and the tenant," and to insert instead thereof the words "at such date."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved to leave out the subsequent words from "if" to the end of the clause, and to insert instead thereof the words "from the following day prior to such refusal."

Amendment agreed to.

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) moved to leave out the word "*four*" and to insert the word "*three.*" The object of the Amendment was to reduce from four per cent. to three per cent. the rate of interest payable by the tenant in the interval between the agreement to purchase and the completion of the sale. It seemed unreasonable that the tenants should be obliged to pay a higher rate of interest than the current rate of the market. Of course the Amendment would only operate in the absence of an express agreement in the contract as to the rate of interest.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said he could not agree to the Amendment. In the first place, during the interval the tenant would be paying less than afterwards he would have to pay by way of annuity; and over and above that objection it was clear that to insert 3 per cent. in an Act of Parliament as the normal rate of interest would practically stereotype the rate afterwards. When the landlord had to pay interest on a mortgage of his estate of 4 or 5 per cent., it seemed unreasonable that the tenant should only be paying 3 per cent. The effect would be to discourage sale by the landlord.

Mr. T. M. HEALY suggested to his right hon. and learned Friend that he would be on firmer ground if he proposed 3⅛ per cent., that having been laid down by the Lord Chief Baron as the legal rate of interest. Moreover, that was the rate which the Conservative Government of 1888 agreed to in connection with the Act of that year. If they examined the Commons' reasons for disagreeing with the Lords' Amendments at that time, it would be found that one reason given was that 3⅛ per cent. had been made the subject of legal decision. Was this House now to go back on what it did eight or nine years ago? To do so would be to give the House of Lords a dangerous pull.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL accepted the suggestion of his hon. and learned Friend, and, the Amendment having been withdrawn, he moved to insert 3⅛ per cent.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND denied that the Lord Chief Baron had decided that 3⅛ per cent. was the legal interest in such cases. The decision in question was based on the circumstances of the particular case, and it was expressly recorded that in other similar cases the ordinary Court rate of interest of 4 per cent. had been allowed.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL pointed out that the Court rate of interest was fixed more than half a century ago, when the state of the money market was very different to what it was now. The Court of Chancery was very Conservative, and, unless the Legislature interfered, it would stand by its old rate. Now, Parliament was creating a new code.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said it really appeared to him to be unreasonable, when they were endeavouring to facilitate sale as far as possible, to ask the landlord to be content with 3⅛ per cent. instead of 5 per cent. upon his capital. If they did that, he would of course, *pro tanto*, be disinclined to sell. Every difficulty they threw in the landlord's way was a difficulty in the way of sale and purchase as between landlord and tenant. Considering what they had done in the Bill to shorten the period between the date of the agreement and the advance of the purchase money, it was unreasonable of the right hon. and learned Member to insist on this Amendment. The actual gain to the tenant would be small, and the effect upon the landlord as regards inclination to sell, might be considerable.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that in a recent case in England Lord Justice Kay stated that 4 per cent. was an antiquated doctrine, and that in considering the Court rate of interest, the Court of Chancery would have regard to what money was worth in the market. Besides, if the landlord was in such a position that he could get 4 per cent. from the tenant as long as the purchase was hanging on, it would obviously be to his interest to let the purchase negotiations drag on interminably. The rate of interest was always dependent upon whether the security was a risky one or not, and in this particular case the security was perfect. The landlord was in the same position as if his money was guaranteed by the State; he ran no risk whatever.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that the case quoted by the hon. Member was that of a particular individual who was ordered to bring money into Court. Most of the landlords in Ireland were incumbered, and the interest on incumbrances ran at 4, 4½, and possibly 5 per cent. In the interval between the time when the agreement was made and the money advanced, those landlords would be obliged to pay interest to their incumbrancers, and if the Committee obliged them to pay interest at the rate provided by the incumbrances, and at the same time prevent them from recovering from the tenant more than 4 per cent., they would be losers.

MR. T. M. HEALY called the attention of the Government to an Amendment of Lord Fitzgerald, when the Bill of 1888 came from the Lords, where it was provided that the rate of interest should be calculated at 4 per cent. He quoted from "Hansard" to show that the present First Lord of the Treasury, then Chief Secretary, moved that this provision should be omitted when the Lords' Amendments came to be considered. But now, eight years afterwards, after a bargain had been made fixing the interest at 3⅛ per cent., and after the value of money had fallen practically 1 per cent., the Government proposed to raise the rate of legal interest to a higher rate than they insisted on in 1888.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he was not aware of the passage to which the hon. and learned Member had referred. He thought, however, that a compromise might be come to. If the hon. Member would withdraw his Amendment, he would move to omit the words "or if no rate is agreed on, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum," the effect of which would be to leave the rate of interest to be determined by agreement.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR moved to omit the words, "or if no rate is agreed on, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum."

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR J. COLOMB moved, in Sub-section (2), after the words "purchase money from," to insert the words "the gale day preceding." The object was to make the payment of interest on the purchase money run from the gale day and avoid brokers' periods.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that this was a proposal which changed the law of the tenant's letting. According to the hon. Member's Amendment, the tenant might have to pay interest on the purchase money five or six months before any purchase money was agreed upon.

*SIR J. COLOMB denied that this was so, because the landlord at that date would be entitled to his rent, and the rate of interest chargeable was less than that rent, and therefore to the benefit of the tenant.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that the landlord and the tenant made a bargain and agreed what the amount of the purchase money was to be. An agreement was then made as to arrears, and the effect of the two agreements was to clear the tenant up to the date of the purchase agreement. The hon. Member now proposed that the tenant should not be cleared up to the date of the purchase money, but that the interest of the purchase money might go back five or six months.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, in Sub-section (2), after the words "advance is refused shall," to insert the words "unless the agreement otherwise provides." This and the next Amendment could be illustrated by a reference to a question which the Chief Secretary was asked the previous day. The right hon. Gentleman was asked about a Kerry estate, on which, two or three years ago, the tenants had entered into land purchase agreement to buy their holdings at a certain price. All arrears had been wiped out, and further, they agreed as from the date of the agreement to pay interest on the purchase money in lieu of rent. But the agreement now broke down, not from a default of the tenants, but through some defect of the landlord's title. The whole agreement was wiped out, and the tenants were liable now for the arrears of rent as if there had been no purchase agreement made. If the purchase agreement broke down, the tenants must go back to their rents. When a landlord and tenant had come to a purchase agreement, wiping out arrears, the breakdown of the agreement ought not to throw the tenant back to his original position. He did not propose that this Amendment of the law should operate in cases where the parties expressly agreed that it should not. The provision was not to be compulsory.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved in Sub-section (2) to omit the words "on account of rent," and to insert instead thereof the words "in discharge of the rent up to the date covered by the same."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND contended that the clause as it stood would not operate unjustly. If a landlord and tenant chose to make arrangemenents in their agreement as to what was to happen if the purchase went off, their respective rights and liabilities would, of course, be regulated by those arrangements; but, in the absence of such special arrangements, if a landlord and a tenant agreed—the one to sell and the other to buy—and the agreement went off, the effect must be to remit the parties to the position which they occupied before the agreement was entered into. The proposal of the hon. Member, if carried, would be likely to deter landlords from making agreements for sale.

MR. T. M. HEALY protested against the change in the law which the Government sought to introduce by this clause. The clause of the Act of 1888 ought to be left as it stood. This proposed change showed the vicious enmity felt by certain land officials in Ireland against the tenantry. Those officials were opposed to provisions that were fair to the tenant.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 29, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 30,—

ADVANCES FOR PURCHASE OF HOLDING SUBJECT TO A RENTCHARGE.

Where a sale of a holding is made by a landlord to a tenant in consideration of the tenant paying a fine and engaging to pay to the vendor a rentcharge, the Land Commission may, if satisfied with the security, make an advance under the Land Purchase Acts as amended by this Act to the tenant for the purposes of such purchase of any sum not exceeding the amount of the fine payable to the landlord, subject as follows:—

(*a.*) The advance shall not exceed the saleable value of the landlord's interest in the holding after deducting such sum as appears to the Land Commission to be the capital value of the rentcharge.

(*b.*) The advance shall not be made where the rentcharge exceeds half the rent which, in the opinion of the Land Commission, would be a fair rent for the holding.

(*c.*) An ejectment for nonpayment of rent shall not be brought in respect of the rentcharge.

(*d.*) The rentcharge shall be reserved in the vesting order, but the purchase annuity shall have priority over such rentcharge.

(*e.*) The Land Commission may, if satisfied with the security, make a further advance for the redemption of the rentcharge in like manner as for the purchase of the holding.

(*f.*) Where a holding is sold under this section the powers conferred by the Land Purchase Acts and this Act for the apportionment of charges shall extend to an apportionment of charges between the purchase money and the rentcharge, and the provisions of Section 15 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, with respect to the acceptance by an incumbrancer of the purchase money in part discharge of his incumbrance shall apply as if the rentcharge were other lands within the meaning of those provisions.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 31,—

TERMS OF REDEMPTION OF TITHE RENTCHARGE IN CASE OF SALE.

(1.) Where the Land Commission, in pursuance of Section 15 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, order the redemption of tithe rentcharge

at a price not less than twenty times the net amount of such tithe rentcharge, after making such deduction in respect of rates as is provided by Section 7 of the Irish Church Act, 1869, Amendment Act, 1872, the consent of the Treasury shall not be required to such redemption.

(2.) The foregoing enactment shall not apply to any annual sum payable to the Land Commission under Section 32 of the Irish Church Act, 1869, as amended by any other Act, but the Land Commission may order the redemption of such tithe rent-charge at a sum calculated on the basis of the annual sum being for a term of forty-five years instead of fifty-two years.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 32,—

SALE OF HOLDING BY LAND COMMISSION.

(1.) The Land Commission, upon the sale of a holding under Section 30 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, or under any power of sale, may sell the holding in lots.

(2.) Section 15 of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1885, as amended by this Act, shall extend to a sale of a holding by the Land Commission, as successors to the Commissioners of Church Temporalities in Ireland.

(3.) Where a holding is subject to the future payment of an annuity, and the Land Commission sell it in lots, or a portion of any such holding is required for any of the purposes mentioned in Section 5 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, for which a holding may be resumed, the Land Commission may apportion the annuity in such manner as they deem expedient.

(4.) Where the Land Commission sell a holding, the purchase money shall be paid and distributed as if it were the purchase money of a holding sold by a landlord to a tenant.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, in Sub-section (3), after the word "expedient," to insert—

"or may, if they think fit, make an order discharging any such portion of the holding as aforesaid from any further liability for such annuity, or any part thereof, or any arrears thereof."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 33,—

AMENDMENT OF 54 & 55 VICT. C. 33 S. 5 (2) (*b*) AS TO MONEY FOR LABOURERS' COTTAGES.

The power conferred on the Lord Lieutenant by Sub-section two of Section five of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, to make regulations for the application of the moneys therein mentioned towards the cost of providing labourers' cottages, is hereby extended to include a power to make regulations for the application of those moneys towards defraying any costs incurred at any time after the passing of the said Act of 1891 in providing such cottages.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 34,—

SALES UNDER THE LANDED ESTATES COURT ACT.

(1.) Where an absolute order for the sale of an estate, comprising holdings to which this section applies, has been made under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, and either a receiver has been appointed over the estate or the estate is so circumstanced that it would independently of this Act be sold without the consent of the owner as to price, the following provisions shall have effect:—

(*a.*) The Land Commission shall, at the request of the Land Judge, cause the estate to be inspected, and a report to be made by two Commissioners respecting the estate, and the circumstances thereof, and the price at and the conditions under which the sale of the holdings to the tenants under the Land Purchase Acts can properly be made.

(*b.*) The Land Judge, after giving all parties, including the tenants, an opportunity of being heard, and considering the report and any offers that may be made for the purchase of the estate or any part thereof, and any other matters that may be brought before him, and the general circumstances of the estate, shall make to the person appearing to be in occupation as tenant of each holding on the estate, an offer to sell to him the fee-simple of the holding, at such price, and subject to such conditions, whether as to the payment of part of the price in cash, or as to the offer to one tenant being conditional on the acceptance by other tenants of the offers made to them within a limited time, or otherwise, as the Land Judge may consider reasonable and just, having regard to the interest of all persons interested in the estate.

(*c.*) The offer shall be communicated in such manner as the Land Commission think fit to the person appearing to be in occupation as tenant, and if it is accepted then, on fulfilment of the conditions, the said person shall be deemed to have agreed to purchase the holding within the meaning of the Land Purchase Acts, and the sale shall be completed accordingly.

(*d.*) If it appears to the Land Judge that the tenants of holdings on the estate to the extent of not less than three-fourths in number and value according to the rateable value under the Irish Valuation Acts, have accepted the offers under this section, he may, if, having regard to the circumstances of the case he thinks it expedient, order that the remaining tenants or any of them shall be deemed to have accepted the offers made to them, and this section and the Land Purchase Acts shall apply accordingly; provided that such order shall not apply to any tenant if the purchase money of his holding would exceed the limitation on the amount of the advance imposed by Section 2 of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1888, and the holding of such tenant shall not be taken into consideration in estimating the three-fourths above mentioned.

(*e.*) Where a receiver has been appointed over part of an estate, this section shall apply to that part in like manner as if it were an estate.

(*f.*) The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply only to holdings which are agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral.

(2.) Any person in occupation of and paying rent for a parcel of land (including the owner of an estate in occupation of a mansion-house or demesne forming part of the estate) held under a letting by the Land Judge or Receiver Judge may agree to purchase such parcel of land, and the same shall be deemed a holding and such person a tenant, and the Land Judge or Receiver Judge, as the case may be, a landlord within the meaning of the Land Purchase Acts.

(3.) At any time after an absolute order for the sale of an estate or part of an estate has been made in pursuance of the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, the foregoing provisions of this section so far as they are applicable may upon the application of the owner be applied to such estate, although a receiver has not been appointed over the estate, and the estate is not so circumstanced that it would, independently of this Act, be sold without the consent of the owner as to price; provided that no advance shall be made to the owner to purchase any mansion-house or demesne forming part of the estate.

(4.) Rules under Part Two of this Act may be made for carrying into effect this section.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, in paragraph (*b*) sub-section (1), after the words "fee-simple of the holding," to insert the words "and the arrears of rent then due from him in respect thereof."

Amendment agreed to.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said that he had always been in favour of a limited system of land purchase, but he did not think that, if the system were applied universally all over Ireland, causing the total disappearnce of the present class of landlords, it would lead to general prosperity and peace. He knew that some hon. Members opposite thought that an Irish landlord was incapable of any tender emotions, and even of common honesty. That view, however, was not held by everybody, and it was now admitted in many quarters that to the action of the landlords the present condition of Ireland was largely due. ["Hear, hear!" *from the Nationalist Members.*] What was its position? The country had never before been so peaceable, nor, he believed, so prosperous. [*Nationalist laughter.*] Hon. Members opposite, who made broad assertions as to the unhappy condition of the Irish tenantry, never supported their statements by figures or proof of any kind. The majority of Irish landlords had maintained peaceful relations with their tenants. There were, of course, exceptions; but in those cases the strained relations were nearly always the result of the work of political agitators. On the whole, the landlords had treated their tenants reasonably; and, even in cases where fair rents had been fixed, they had generally granted reductions in bad years. If the present class of landlords were swept away and replaced by small men occupying a more or less precarious position, the peace of Ireland would be far more difficult to maintain than at present, and the rent agitation would at once begin again. These were the broad reasons why he thought that universal land purchase would not be a satisfactory thing. But the Government proposed a modified system of land purchase, because, of course, the money provided by the State was not anything like sufficient to buy out all the landlords. He could not conceive why a clause of this kind was introduced into the Bill, because it was really antagonistic to land purchase. He believed the clause would rig the market. It would bring about forced sales. Estates would be brought into the market against the will of the owner, against the will of a portion of the tenants, and against the will of the incumbrancers—the insurance companies and others who had advanced millions of money on Irish land. The sale of estates would be forced at a price to be decided by the Land Commission, without any warning to the interested parties, and without giving an opportunity for fair competition. That was a fatal objection to the clause. If it contained an element which would enable fair competition to take place, there might not be so much objection to it, but fair competition in the open market was removed. One portion of the tenants on an estate might disapprove of purchase. They might not want to buy. He knew of a great number of cases in which the tenants generally would rather remain as they were, and where that was the case it would throw great difficulty in the way of peaceful settlements. Another objection to the clause was that it brought in an element of compulsion. He did not know that there was any other civilised country in the world where the system of compulsion had been adopted. Why should a tenant be forced, against his will, to become the tenant of the British Government? The British Government was now not very popular with the majority of the people of Ireland in its capacity of a Government; but if the Government was made the landlords of the people, its popularity, instead of growing, would vanish altogether. He objected altogether to the principle of compulsion. As applied to the landlords he should oppose it to the bitter end, and he should oppose it equally as applied to the tenants. He had not made these observations with any desire to defeat the progress of the Bill. He was sure the House and his right hon. Friend would agree that he and his friends had not prolonged the Debate as they might have done; but, as he looked on this clause as one which would have the effect of defeating the aim and object of the Government of promoting a free sale of land in Ireland, he was bound to oppose it.

Mr. DILLON, who was frequently interrupted with cries of "Speak up!" was understood to say that, though he was a supporter of the clause, he had some misgiving as to its effect. He was very much afraid it would have the opposite effect to that suggested by the hon. and gallant Member, and that it would rig the land market in favour of the landlords. The hon. and gallant Member supposed that the clause would bear down the land market by withdrawing land from open competition, but he would direct the attention of the Committee to the fact that the clause only applied to estates the owners of which had parted with all right to fix a price. He did not know whether the Land Judge had acted legally, but he had assumed to himself the right to withdraw these estates from the market and keep up the price. An enormous number of estates had been put into his Court for the purpose of sale, and this clause, so far from having the effect of bearing down the price of land, would, he was afraid, keep it up. He confessed that he supported the clause with some misgiving for that reason. The rights of mortgagees and landlords were guarded by every conceivable safeguard. The Land Judge had unfettered discretion to decide whether the offers made by the Land Commission were fair, and there was nothing in the clause to force the hand of the Land Judge; so that, as a matter of fact, so far as the landlords' interests were concerned, or the interests of the mortgagee, or anybody having an interest in these so-called derelict estates, they would have additional chances of parting with their interests and thereby an additional stop would be put to the falling of the price of land. The fact was that the value of land had not nearly touched bottom in these matters. Although he had been from the beginning, and still was, a consistent supporter of land sale as a settlement of the Irish land question, he had always advised the tenants to be exceedingly slow in entering into bargains for purchase while the land market was a falling market. The true way of dealing with the problem would be to compel the Land Judge to put on the market all the estates lying derelict in the Land Court. That would leave the estates to fair competition in the market. Why should they in regard to land, any more than in regard to any other commodity, when the market was dropping, introduce an artificial method by the law of the land to bear up the price? These things ought to be left to the play of the market. What he complained of was that the Irish landlords were not willing to face the market and get what they could for their land, but that an artificial system was to be adopted for the purpose of keeping up the price. He did not support the clause with enthusiasm, because he did not expect much out of it. He liked the policy of the clause, but he could not give a vote in support of it without stating frankly that he believed, as at present drawn, the effect of the clause would be to keep up the increase in the price of land and to arrest that fall which was essential and necessary if land purchase was to be carried on upon a lasting basis. Therefore, while he was inclined to support the clause, he did so with misgivings.

*SIR J. COLOMB remarked that the object of the clause was to take away the discretion which had been vested in a High Court Judge, namely, the Landed Estates Judge, for more than a generation, and place it in the hands of the Land Commission in regard to the price that should be accepted for land. It did even more than that. It changed the principle of an open market for land in the Incumbered Estates Court into a close market, which, to his mind, was a great danger. It also did away with the security and safeguards of the entrance of puisne incumbrances, which was one of the things which the Landed Estates Court was created to take care of. He would illustrate what the clause did. Say there was a property in the Court, and in regard to which all the preliminary conditions of this clause were fulfilled. According to this clause, the Judge had no discretion at all but to order the Land Commission to make a Report as to the terms and conditions upon which the property was to be sold from the incumbrancers, who were the real men, to the tenants. The Land Commission went down and held an inspection in order to make this Report, and the very first thing they had to bear in mind was that they did not themselves want to become landlords. They were the mere conduit-pipe to convey the property from the incumbrancers to the tenants. They must take and fix the price at the figure the tenants chose to give. It was not merely that, but the price would not be fixed according to what the bulk of the tenants agreed to give, but according to that which one-third of the tenants would give. He would state why. The most important thing the Land Commission had to do was to safeguard the interest of the State. If, therefore, they found on an estate that, although two-thirds of the tenants were willing to give 16 years' purchase, and that one-third would only give 10 years, they would be in this position : if they reported that the price to be given by the tenants was 16 years' purchase, they would have one-third of the tenants standing out and would have to apply the compulsory clause. That was a very serious position for the Land Commission to recommend the State to put itself in. If the Land Commission acted upon the principles they were established to carry out, and wished to safeguard the interest of the State and avoid having land thrown on their own hands, they must fix the price according to that which one-third of the tenants were willing to give, namely, 10 years' purchase, although the rest of the tenants were able and willing to give 16. He must say that he thought that was a desperate position to place the Land Commission in. He contended that this was a clause to force the price of land down to the point at which one-third of the tenants were willing to purchase. Had the Land Judge, knowing the circumstances of the case, any discretion in dealing with the matter ? As he read the clause, he had not. The Land Commission would make their Report, and then the Land Judge had no alternative, and could exercise no discretion whatever, but must offer the land to each of the tenants at the price named in the Report, which, as he had shown, might be the price fixed by only one-third of the tenants. That was a very serious revolution in, and tremendous departure from, the policy that prevailed now, and which had obtained for over 40 years. He agreed it would be much more satisfactory if the property now in the hands of the Landed Estates Court could be got out of that Court, and that a fair and reasonable price, regulated by the open market, could be realised for it. He thought he had said enough to show the tremendous consequences that were likely to follow from this clause. He appreciated the motive of the Government, and he was sure the Chief Secretary was only desirous of doing what was right and fair, and that he would do nothing to injure the fair value of property in Ireland. But he should vote for the rejection of the clause on the grounds that they were sweeping away the policy and practice that had existed for nearly 50 years of a Court that no one had complained of and that had done its work well ; that they were taking away, from what remained of the Estates Court, its essence—namely, the discretion of the Judge ; that they were knocking down the value of land really to the price that a third of the tenants would give for it ; and that what they were doing would renew agitation in Ireland. What was going to come out of this clause was this—that on every estate where the tenant wanted to buy and it was known that the owner of the estate was heavily incumbered and had not a large margin, the tenants would withhold the rent. Then the estate would go into the Estates Court, and from that time the course was clear for the tenants, for once in Court, according to this clause, the tenants get it at their own price. Under all these circumstances he would ask his right hon. Friend whether he thought the clause ought to be passed after only 40 minutes' discussion—a clause which was revolutionary in its character, and in its aim and effect fraught with great danger.

MR. T. M. HEALY believed this to be the most valuable clause for the landlords, and, therefore, if they voted against it, he should support it. [*Laughter.*] The hon. Gentleman who had just spoken opposed the clause on the ground of its coercion of the landlords. All he could say was that if he went to a division he should, in the words of a memorable placard which he issued at the election of 1886, "Vote for Colomb and no coercion." [*Loud laughter.*]

*SIR J. COLOMB said he had never issued any placard, "Vote for Colomb, and no coercion" at the date named, Placards were issued without his knowledge, and he had them at once torn down.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said there was one statement made by his hon. and gallant Friend the Member for North Armagh which he thought he ought to immediately correct. That was the statement that the policy of the Government in promoting purchase by this Bill would simply drive the present landlords out of the country. That was very far from their intention, and he would point out that, in this particular clause, was a sub-section inserted with the view of maintaining them in the enjoyment of their houses and lands.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: That is without their property. How are they to live?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said his hon. Friend the Member for Great Yarmouth had asked him whether, in view of all the horrible consequences he had conjured up as likely to follow from this clause, it was reasonable that the clause should be passed after 40 minutes' discussion. If he thought all those consequences were likely to follow he should have some sympathy with his hon. Friend's complaint, but he thought he could show that those consequences were not likely to follow. They were told by his hon. and gallant Friend that this was a proposal simply to rig the market, that there was no fair offer to the public, and that the price would be settled by the Land Court. His hon. Friend the Member for Yarmouth, on the other hand, said the price would be settled by the tenants or by one-third of the tenants. Let them look at the facts. In the first place, this clause was not to apply to an estate which had completely passed out of the control of the landlord. An absolute order for sale must be made before the clause applied at all. Then what followed? The Land Commission was directed to inspect the estate and to report to the Judge what would be a reasonable price for the tenants to give for their holdings. And then followed this procedure:—

> "The Land Judge, after giving all parties, including the tenants, an opportunity of being heard, and considering the report and any offers that may be made for the purchase of the estate or any part thereof, and any other matters that may be brought before him, and the general circumstances of the estate, shall make to the person appearing to be in occupation as tenant of each holding on the estate an offer to sell to him the fee-simple of the holding."

Therefore, he put it to the Committee that there was every possible precaution taken that the price should not be merely fixed by the tenant or by a portion of the tenants, or even by the Land Commission, but should be a price which the Judge, having before him the Report of the Land Commission and all the circumstances, should himself fix. He could not himself see that there was the slightest danger of any undue depreciation of these properties arising from a procedure of that kind.

SIR J. COLOMB: Are we to understand that the Land Commission are to give a report of the price that they think ought to be given, and not the price the tenants are willing to give?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Certainly. The case is as clear as possible if my hon. Friend will look at the language of the clause:—"The Land Commission shall, at the request of the Land Judge, cause the estate to be inspected and a report to be made by two Commissioners respecting the estate and the circumstances thereof, and the price at and the conditions under which the sale of the holdings to the tenants under the Land Purchase Acts can properly be made."

*SIR J. COLOMB: That means that the tenants have agreed to the price.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said certainly not. The words were, the price at which the sale "can properly be made." His hon. Friend had said the practice of the Landed Estates Court was one of which no complaint had been made up to the present time, but Judge Monroe, in a charge delivered some five or six years ago, stated that the expensive procedure of the Court was eating into the very vitals of the property. ["Hear, hear!"] Quite apart from the advantage gained to the best interests of Ireland in transferring their holdings to the tenants, some provision which would put an end to a state of things under which the Landed Estates Court had developed into a huge machine for the collection of rents was earnestly required. [*Nationalist cheers.*] He would like to point out the immense advantages which would be derived from this clause if it were passed into law. In the first place, they would undoubtedly give an enormous stimulus and impetus to purchase; in the second place, they would relieve the congestion in the Landed Estates Court; and, in the third place, they would be doing away with a system under which estates, instead of being under the control of those who owned them, were simply under the control of receivers, who practically had no interest, or very little interest, in the proper management of them. He earnestly commended the clause to the favourable vote of the

Committee. He thought himself that it was the most important clause of the Bill, and certainly it was one which he himself was prepared to abide by. ["Hear!"]

Question put, "That Clause 34, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 293; Noes, 42.—(Division List, No. 344.)

And, it being after half-past Five of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

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## LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS [EXCISE DUTY].

Committee thereupon deferred till To-morrow.

## LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

## UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

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## RAILWAYS (IRELAND) [ADVANCES].

Resolution reported:—

"That it is expedient to authorise the Treasury to make Advances, not exceeding £500,000 at any one time, under any Act of the present Session to facilitate the construction of Railways in Ireland, and for that purpose to borrow from the National Debt Commissioners the sums that may be required, such sums to be repaid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, and, if those moneys are insufficient, out of the Consolidated Fund."

Resolution agreed to.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

On the Motion that Supply be put down for Friday,

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked what Supply would be taken, and whether there was any truth in the rumour that Government did not intend to take the Education Vote on that day?

Mr. DILLON inquired what arrangements were proposed for the consideration of the remaining Irish Votes?

*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*

The FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said there was no truth in the rumour to which reference had been made. As to the taking of the remaining Irish Votes, he reminded hon. Members that he had given four nights to Irish Supply. He hoped, therefore, hon. Gentlemen would make some effort to get through the Votes which remained.

Committee of Supply accordingly deferred till Friday.

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## WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Friday.

## MILITARY WORKS [MONEY].

Committee thereupon deferred till To-morrow.

## AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS' AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

## NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## FINANCE BILL.

Third Reading deferred till To-morrow.

## TRUCK BILL.

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till Monday next.

## WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY GUARANTEE BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.]

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of July, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at a Quarter before Six o'clock.

*An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

# HOUSE OF LORDS

*Thursday, 23rd July* 1896.

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

### BELFAST CORPORATION BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

### ORKNEY AND ZETLAND SMALL PIERS AND HARBOURS BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 2) BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

### EDINBURGH GENERAL REGISTER HOUSE BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª, and to be printed.—[No. 210.]

### LABOURERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª, and to be printed.—[No. 211.]

### PUBLIC OFFICES (SITE) BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

### INFANT LIFE PROTECTION BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the House to be put into Committee read.

Moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into Committee."

THE EARL OF DENBIGH said he would like to say a few words because, since the Bill had been read a second time, it had been very considerably altered in Committee. As he explained on the Second Reading, the Bill was promoted on behalf of the London County Council after prolonged inquiries and negotiations, conducted both by the Council and their predecessors, the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the idea was that an extension of the present Act was necessary, inasmuch as it had been found to be very largely inoperative. The noble Marquess the Prime Minister, on the Second Reading, expressed some fear that possibly the proposed action of the Bill might interfere with or check the charitable actions either of individuals or of institutions. It was the earnest intention and desire of the promoters to avoid any such interference, and the Committee gave very considerable and minute attention to that point. They took a great deal of interesting evidence first of all of the London County Council officials, of Mr. Braxton Hicks, and other of the London Coroners, as to the necessity of extending the present law. Evidence was also given by people connected with various charitable institutions—such as Mr. Rudolph, Secretary to the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society; by Dr. Barnardo; by Mr. Waugh, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; by Mrs. Abraham, who was considerably interested in various Catholic rescue institutions and convents; by Miss Mason, the well-known Local Government Inspector for boarded-out children; and by Mrs. Hardy, of Manchester, on behalf of an admirable local society which had done much good in that town. From all this the Committee concluded that the class of people whom these societies were anxious to obtain as foster-parents to the children whom they had boarded out would probably, in fact most certainly, raise considerable objection to official inspection and registration on the part of local authorities. But it was stated almost invariably that they would welcome visits from ladies on behalf of local committees, with the view of exercising a sort of general supervision over the children in their charge, and of tendering advice as to their care when necessary. He might state here that all the witnesses put great stress on the fact that the inspectors under this Act should be women. The Committee fully concurred with this view, and came to the conclusion that male inspectors would probably do far more harm than good. The proposal to extend the present Act and to include all single children that were boarded out had been abandoned. There was no doubt that there might be a certain number of what were known as professional baby-farmers, who evaded the present law simply by taking in one child at one time, and no doubt it was a very desirable thing to bring such people as these under control; but, on the other hand, it was found that most of the worst characters amongst these professionals took in more than one child at a time, and therefore the worst cases would be dealt with by merely extending the age of the children whom it was proposed to register from the present limit of 12 months to five years. It was shown before the Committee, by people who had had great experience in visiting the homes of the poor and interesting themselves in charitable objects, that very large numbers of children were privately boarded out by their mothers under circumstances which would render it almost impossible for the local authority to obtain any cognisance of them, and that these children were not at all necessarily put out to nurse for the purpose of being "put away." The evidence generally showed that these children were not as a rule worse off than the foster-parents' own children, when they had them, or, in other words, the children of the same class amongst the immediate neighbours. Therefore it was believed that an inquisitorial system of inspection and registration in such cases as those was very likely to be highly objectionable and might do more harm than good. If they placed undue difficulties in the way of unfortunate mothers who might desire to place their children where they might be properly looked after when they could not, under any circumstances, keep them with themselves, they would very likely drive this system of boarding-out beneath the surface, and tend to cause the very crime which they were endeavouring to prevent. It was shown that these charitable institutions and societies generally placed out the children under their charge singly, and by excluding single children from the operation of the Bill, he thought they would most probably exclude from the Act those institutions which they did not wish to interfere with. They thought it was also rather a mistake to set up too high a standard in respect of the premises in which children should be allowed to be boarded out. They thought it would only add to the difficulties which had been mentioned, and for these reasons they proposed to abandon registration altogether, and to adopt instead a system of notification to the local authorities. After all, the important thing was to know where these unfortunate children were and who were the people who were in the habit of taking them in for profit or reward. It was important to know this in order that the local authorities might be able to have some sort of supervision over them. They thought, therefore, that notification merely would probably meet the case in a much better way than registration, which had not been very largely taken advantage of. There was one clause which he regretted extremely the Committee did not see their way to adopt—the only important clause upon which the Committee were not practically unanimous. It was the clause which made it an illegal offence for anybody who had taken a child for profit or reward to hand it on to another person without either the leave of the local authorities or notifying the fact. It was felt that, as they had abandoned the provisions of the Bill dealing with the boarding-out of single children, it would be practically impossible to prevent a person having the charge of a single child from handing it on, or, at all events, it would be very difficult to make such an offence. All the same he regretted extremely that they had not been able to devise a method for dealing with that very nefarious branch of the traffic in children which he might call the "railway station" traffic. The practice which obtained in so many cases was for

*Earl of Denbigh.*

a woman, who was regularly engaged in the business and received a considerable sum herself, to take these children to a railway station or some other public place and to hand them over to another person, and that other person to still another, until the child was practically lost to sight, and no one could pretend to have the smallest control over it. He regretted extremely that the Committee had not been able to adopt some provision which would have the effect of dealing with that branch of the traffic. Another Bill, which had been introduced by Lord Herschell, was referred to the Committee, but, inasmuch as the Bill of the noble and learned Lord was similar to the other in most of its provisions, the Committee recommended that that Bill should be discharged, but incorporated as much as possible in the amended Bill. One important provision the Committee incorporated was to the effect that when a child was found to be improperly treated or kept in an unhealthy or improper place, the local authority should have power to compel the workhouse authorities to take charge of that child, for it was no use giving the local authorities power to remove a child in such circumstances unless some place was provided to which the child should be removed. He was aware that the Bill had no chance this Session of further progress than passing that House, but he trusted that when it was eventually passed the local authorities in the country districts would pay more attention to it than they had done to the existing Act. For the remarkable fact came out in evidence that the Metropolitan Board of Works first, and the London County Council afterwards, were the only authorities in the country who had really administered the Act with any vigour. It was possible that the prominence which had recently been given to this subject by recent crimes would induce people outside London to remember that the country districts were, as a rule, the happy hunting grounds of the persons whom they wished, by this legislation, to bring within the law. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER remarked that no one who had looked into this matter could fail to be struck by the fact that for 24 years we had had on the Statute-book a law on this subject which had practically been a dead letter throughout the whole of the country with the exception of the area under the control of the London County Council. Various explanations might be given for this. The real reason, however, was that it had been found by experience that the machinery provided by the existing Act was both cumbrous and ineffective, and consequently the far-reaching results which were expected from it had not been attained. The machinery of the present Bill provided that, in order that not more than one child might be kept apart from its parents for hire or reward, the house, in which the children were kept must be registered. Strong objections had been raised to the registration of houses, and in the absence of registration bad and worthless people had been able thereby the more easily to evade the law. In this Bill it was provided that notice should be given to the local authority when more than one child was taken. Large discretion would be given to the local authorities in the administration of the Act, and registration would be insisted upon in some form. In further protection of these children it was determined to raise the age of those dealt with under the Bill from 12 months to five years. Almost all the children concerned in this class of legislation were illegitimate, a fact which was established by the absolutely unanimous testimony of coroners, inspectors, nurses, and workers among the poor. It might be said that their first need in dealing with a matter of this kind was to know the proportion of illegitimate to legitimate children in the death-rate of the country; but it was a subject of great surprise to the Committee, as it would doubtless be to their Lordships, that no information on that point was furnished to the public by the office of the Registrar General. He trusted that one result of the Debate would be that returns might be obtained, tabulated, and published, on this point, for the information would be valuable. ["Hear, hear!"] Some conjectural figures, however, had been obtained. For instance, in London last year there were 2,119 inquests held on children under one year of age, and if the proportion of illegitimate children among them was the same as that given for the country, the number would be 90, but as a matter of fact the number was 392. Again, in Manchester, in the three years from 1891 to 1894, while 17 per cent. of the children who died under one year of age were legitimate, no less than 39 per cent. were illegitimate. In fact, anyone who looked into the facts would find that the figures relating to the mortality of illegitimate children were simply appalling. This was the class of children they wanted to protect. They wanted to protect them, not merely from murder, and murder of the sensational kind that attracted public attention, but from the far more common, though not less terrible death, to which many of the children were condemned by the long course of suffering and ill-usage to which they were exposed in the earliest years of life. Doubtless, the actual number of such awful crimes of child murder as those which had recently horrified the country was very small, but he ventured to believe that the occasional occurrence of such crimes had one result—namely, to awaken everyone to a sense of the evils and dangers that affected large numbers of children in the country. [" Hear, hear ! "]. They aimed at rendering difficult the quiet doing to death, not necessarily with criminal intent, of children who were specially helpless. At whose door was it that the blame really lay for the large number of deaths such as those to which he had referred ? Primarily, of course, at the door of the foster-parents who had the children to nurse. But everyone who had borne witness on this subject agreed that the number of deaths due to actual crime was as nothing to that due to sheer ignorance, carelessness and poverty, and therefore it was not possible to lay the whole blame at the door of those who were driven, often by their poverty, to do evil to their children. It was not possible to say that the blame rested wholly at the door of the mothers, who often did the best they could for the children. It would be vain indeed to disguise the fact that no small share of the responsibility ought to rest upon the fathers of the children. He mentioned these facts lest it should be supposed they had got at the root of the matter. They desired to prevent baby-farming by making it impossible to take more than one child under five years of age for hire or reward without giving notice to the local authority ; and, on the other hand, they had endeavoured so to word the provisions of the Bill as not to increase the difficulty of an unmarried mother. The Bill could not pass this Session, but he thought real benefit would accrue if its provisions were thoroughly considered and criticised outside the House as well as within its walls before it was reintroduced next year. [" Hear, hear ! "]

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY said the object of the Bill was one of which, of course, they all approved, but there was one point to which he wished to refer. The right rev. Prelate said that the former Act had been a dead letter. He hoped he was not too great a pessimist when he said he was afraid that this Bill would be a dead letter too. A great many philanthropic Acts had been passed, and nothing more had been heard of them. Why ? Because no efficient machinery had been provided for carrying them out. It was provided that it should be the duty of every local authority to provide for the execution of the Act, but he could not see any provision for enforcing the duty upon the local authorities. They " may " appoint female inspectors, but he was afraid that in the majority of cases they would not appoint them. Local authorities were extremely afraid of new bodies of inspectors, because they meant the payment of money or fresh burdens upon the rates. To put an end to the iniquitous system of baby-farming was a matter of national importance, and, therefore, District Councils would say that the duties under the Bill ought not to be cast upon them. He was greatly afraid that, unless they provided for payment by the whole community, the Act would not, as a general result, be put in force.

THE PRIME MINISTER (THE MARQUESS of SALISBURY) desired to follow a little further the train of thought pursued by the noble Lord, to which it seemed to him it was very desirable the House should pay some attention. He did not think the noble Lord was correct in saying there were no resources provided by the Bill.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: The clauses seem to me to be of a permissive nature.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Clause 3 provides that "It shall be the duty of every local authority to provide for the execution of this Act within its district," and Clause 8 provides that "All expenses incurred by or on behalf of the local authority in and about the execution of this Act shall be defrayed out of the local rate."

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY said his point was that, after saying it was their duty, they were told they "may" appoint inspectors. They "may" not appoint inspectors, and, not having appointed inspectors, nothing would be done.

THE PRIME MINISTER thought that here again was displayed one of the ingenious plans which the lawyers had devised for preventing the laity from understanding what they were doing. His fear was exactly the same as that of the noble Lord—namely, that the Act, the object of which was excellent, would really be paralysed by the fact that the payment would be placed upon those who would resent the obligation as a great injustice. It was not merely that the cost was placed upon the local rate when it was a matter of public concern, but it was placed precisely upon the rate of that part of the country which had no concern in the performance of this particular duty. Illegitimate children were produced in London, and they were sent into the country to be hidden or to be brought up. It was not the place that sent them, but the place to which they were sent which was to pay for the supervision which these proceedings required. He thought that when it came to asking a small rural District Council to provide male and female inspectors in order that all the children that were brought to all cottages might be duly registered, they would come across that sturdy resistance of English yeomen to unjust taxation that had baffled the ingenuity of Parliament again and again; they would distinctly refuse to have placed on their shoulders a burden they ought not to bear, but which ought to be borne by those richer districts which furnished the children. He did not in the least desire to criticise the Bill with any indication that the machinery was unnecessary or in the least extravagant, or that the object of the Bill was unworthy of the effort which its authors had made. On the contrary, he believed it was a philanthropic object to which all their assistance and sympathy should be given. But why go to the rates? Why not boldly face the Treasury in its den? The Treasury was the body which ought to pay, and, if it would not do so, let them ask the House of Commons to make it pay. It was the business of the guardians of the public purse, the Treasury in the first instance and the House of Commons in the second instance, to see that sufficient money was provided for performing those acts of due philanthropy and for the protection of life which were the first objects for which a civilised community existed. If the Treasury should frown, as it sometimes would, at all events the responsibility would be with that Department. He objected to the attempt to evade this difficulty by placing the burden on the already overburdened ratepayer, who was the last person on whom this obligation ought to be placed.

LORD HERSCHELL observed that the subject to which the Bill related could hardly be viewed as a local matter. This was a Measure auxiliary to the criminal law, one of the objects of the Bill being to prevent a class of crime unfortunately not uncommon. The prosecution of criminals was not now treated as a purely local matter, and proceedings under this legislation might fairly enough be treated as matters of national importance. But he would point out that the course suggested by the noble Marquess was one that could not be taken in that House. Perhaps the Government at an early period next Session would reintroduce this Bill with the modification to which the noble Marquess had referred.

THE PRIME MINISTER said that the Measure, if it was to be taken up by the Government, would have to wait until all the other Bills to which they were pledged should have been disposed of.

LORD THRING said that the Members of the Select Committee that had considered the Bill would only be too happy if the Government would undertake to reintroduce the Measure themselves. The Committee had had two local Bills to consider, both of which provided for the payment of expenses out of the local rates. Whilst considering the present Bill, they found that if they attempted to strengthen it by making registration compulsory, they would be likely to increase the very evil that they wished to cure, and they therefore rejected the registration system, which might inflict great hardship on unfortunate women who had been wronged. The evidence adduced on behalf of benevolent societies showed that the work which it was intended to do under this Bill was largely done by voluntary effort. In Manchester, for example, there was hardly a part of the town that was not visited by most devoted ladies, who extended to these unfortunate children all the protection that any Act of Parliament could extend to them. The Committee held that there ought to be no interference with that benevolent work. They thought, however, that no harm would be done by requiring notice to be given in cases where more than one child was kept for hire or reward. They did not expect that any great good could be done by this legislation. Certainly, it would not do as much good as was done by benevolent societies. Let them legislate as they would, he did not believe that they could make local authorities carry their Acts into effect. Practically, most parts of the country would not have the means to do so. The Bill submitted to their Lordships by the Committee was one which they knew could do no harm, and which they thought might do some good.

Lord BELPER, representing the Home Office, said that the evidence laid before the Committee was practically conclusive on the point that it was not desirable to extend the provisions of the Bill to cases where only one child was kept. The very framers of the Bill, the officials of the London County Council themselves, admitted, after hearing the evidence, that such an extension of the provisions of the Measure would do more harm than good. The other alteration in the Bill was the susbtitution of the system of notice for the system of registration. The evidence showed that although registration was not objected to in certain cases, the people who took these children would mostly prefer not to have their names put upon a register which would include the professional baby-farmers. That, no doubt, was a sentiment which ought to be respected. He believed that the system of notice was more likely to be efficacious than the system which it was proposed to repeal had been. As to the difficulty of inducing the District Councils to carry the Bill into operation, he would only say that the District Council was chosen as the authority because it was the body that was given the power under the Act of 1888. Whilst the Home Secretary gave a general approval to the provisions of the Bill, he reserved his right to move Amendments for the purpose of rendering the Bill more workable. But as it was admitted that the Measure could not be carried further this Session, such Amendments need not be moved now.

The Earl of DENBIGH observed that the Select Committee had considered the point as to the difficulty of inducing local authorities to provide the necessary funds. He wished to say, however, that it was not only local authorities whom it was difficult to get money out of. He had asked the Home Office to consent to give certificates in favour of institutions whose methods of proceeding could be inquired into, with a view of exempting them from the operation of the Bill, and he had met with a refusal on the ground of the extra expense that such a course would entail. If next Session the Government should think fit that the subject with which the Bill dealt should be treated as a matter of national and not merely local concern, the promoters of the Measure would be ready to adopt the proposal.

Bill considered in Committee accordingly; the Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made.

The PRIME MINISTER explained that in saying nothing on the Amendments he had been influenced by the dominant fact that the Bill would go no further this Session.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee.

## VEXATIOUS ACTIONS BILL [H.L.].

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH (PORTS) BILL.

Third Reading (which stands appointed for this day) put off till To morrow.

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## LONDON UNIVERSITY CONVERSION BILL.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (THE DUKE of DEVONSHIRE) rose to move the Second Reading of this Bill. He said: As I made a short statement of the circumstances that have led to the introduction of this Bill when I moved for leave to introduce it, it will not be necessary for me to detain your Lordships for any long time on this occasion. The opposition to the Bill, of which I indicated the possibility, has manifested itself in the form of a statement called "The Case against the London University Bill," and purporting to proceed from two bodies entitled respectively the University Defence Committee and the Gresham Commissioners' Scheme Amendment Committee. It is not stated how these Committees are composed, and whilst I have no doubt that they fairly represent those parties who are known to be opposed to legislation on those lines, and who have already upon more than one occasion ineffectually opposed the principle of the Bill, both in the Senate of the London University and in Convocation, and whilst I have no doubt that they represent the opinion, the importance of which I do not wish to underrate, of a very considerable number of graduates of the University, mostly residing in the provinces—whilst I admit all this, I do not think it will be contended that the body of opinion which is represented by those Committees can be compared for a moment, either in weight or as regards scientific or educational experience, with that body of opinion which in various ways has given expression to its adoption of the principles upon which the Bill is founded. I do not know whether the views which are expressed in the case against the Bill will find any expression in this House. If they do, and if it should appear to be necessary, I should be prepared to deal more in detail with the objections which are urged to it. But I think that in moving the Second Reading it may be sufficient if I say that, in my opinion, the arguments which are brought forward in this case do not establish any reason why the Bill should not be read a second time. There may be some points which are referred to in that case which may be worthy the attention of your Lordships in Committee, and I think that some of the statements may be eminently deserving of the attention of the Statutory Commission if it should be appointed under this Bill. Possibly some noble Lords whom I see present, who have either taken some part in the preparation of this scheme or who have been responsible for the administration of the University, may desire to take this opportunity of saying something in answer to the criticisms of the scheme which are contained in the paper to which I have referred, and I think that possibly some of them may desire to take this opportunity of repudiating the charge, which appears to me to be implied, if it is not openly stated, of indifference on the part of the existing Senate, which is responsible for the efficiency and government of the University, to the paramount importance of maintaining permanently the efficiency and fairness of the examinations of the University and the high character which its degrees at present command. There is only one point in this statement on which I will ask your Lordships' permission to say a few words, because it is partly of a personal character. Some time ago I received a deputation in support of the scheme of Lord Cowper's Commission, a deputation which was composed very largely of the heads of the colleges and institutions affected by it, and also consisted of a very large number of persons eminent in education and in science. I have been in the habit—a habit which, perhaps, I may acknowledge may have its disadvantages as well as its advantages—on the reception of such deputations to endeavour to put such objections as may occur to me to the case which is presented by the deputation, with the object of eliciting further information and explanations, rather than to express unqualified approval of the views brought forward by the deputation, until I am thoroughly acquainted with what may be urged upon the other side. That is the course I took, and the reply which I gave to the representations which were made to me by this deputation. I was aware that a certain amount of opposition existed to the scheme which they had come to advocate, and I was not fully aware of the importance or weight which ought to be attached to that opposition, but I pointed out to the deputation that, influential as it was, and representative as it was of the opinion of those bodies principally concerned, and of the opinions of the scientific world in general, it did not profess to represent the opinion of those external students and graduates of the London University, many of whom were known to be hostile to the scheme. I addressed certain questions to them as to whether any amendments to the scheme of the Cowper Commission could be suggested, or, if proposed, would be worthy of consideration, which would tend to remove reasonable objections or apprehensions on the part of those who were opposed to the plan. It is quite possible that, in putting these points to the deputation, I may have given—I think I probably did give—an impression that I was less favourably disposed to the scheme as a whole, and less sensible of the authority by which it was supported, than was really the case. Some criticisms which were made upon my reply have led me to think that this probably was the case. In consequence, however, of the suggestions I then made, the opponents of the scheme took certain steps to obtain, as they stated, the opinion of Convocation generally upon it, and perhaps I had better read the statement which they make upon this subject. They state in the case which they have circulated :—

"The supporters of the scheme in Convocation having a majority at London meetings refused to institute an official canvass of the views of Convocation generally. An unofficial canvass was therefore necessary in order to supply the Lord President with the information for which he asked. It was undertaken by the present objectors with the most scrupulous desire to render it fair and thorough, and the papers issued for the purposes were first submitted through the Member for the University to the Lord President, and were not disapproved by either."

Now, upon that statement I have to say that I have been in very frequent communication with Sir John Lubbock, the Member for the University, upon this subject, and it is quite possible that in the course of those communications I may have seen the papers and the questions that were proposed to be circulated to members of the Convocation, but I have no recollection of having seen them, and certainly if I had seen them I should not have thought it my duty to make any observations upon them or any criticisms upon the steps which the opponents of the scheme might have thought it their duty to take. Under these circumstances I desire entirely to repudiate and disown any responsibility such as that which the opponents of the scheme appear in this statement to place upon me. ["Hear, hear!"] Having made this explanation, partly of a personal character, I do not think it is necessary for me to enter into any other details. I had hoped that on moving the Second Reading of the Bill I should have been able to lay before your Lordships the complete list of the proposed names which are to be inserted in the Bill as forming the Statutory Commission, but I regret that some unexpected delay has occurred in deciding upon the selection of those names, and especially of the Chairman. I am happy, however, to be able to secure the consent of a noble Lord, a Member of this House, who, I think, from his judicial position and from his known impartiality will be acknowledged to be a Chairman of the Commission in whom entire confidence will be placed by all parties concerned. My noble Friend Lord Davey—[*cheers*]—has expressed his willingness to accept the position of Chairman of this Commission if it should be appointed, and I trust that before the Bill leaves your Lordships' House, or at all events as soon as there appears to be any possibility or probability of its being passed through the other House, I shall be in a position, in conjunction with him, to state the names of those gentlemen who it is proposed shall form the entire Commission. With this explanation, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time. [" Hear, hear ! "]

LORD HERSCHELL : As I have the honour to be Chancellor of the University of London, it is only natural that I should desire to say a few words on the present occasion. I do not intend to go at any length into the controversial matters which surround this Bill, but it is impossible for me to be silent, because the statement of facts which has been circulated amongst your Lordships by those who were opposed to the Bill seems to me to contain implications which I feel it my duty to utter some protest against. The objections to the Measure, may, I think, be put under two heads. It is alleged that the scheme of the Commission of which Lord Cowper was Chairman, even when subjected to the scrutiny and modification of the proposed Statutory Commission would involve two consequences—that it would lower or tend to lower the standard of the degrees, and that it would be unfair or tend to unfairness towards those students who sought to obtain a degree without having been connected with any college or collegiate instruction. The opponents to the scheme, both in the statement they have recently made and in previous statements, always seem to me to assume that those will be the consequences. Their statement is founded upon assumption rather than any proof or evidence. Indeed, I think anyone reading the statement would come to the conclusion that it was an admitted fact that those consequences would necessarily follow. The Senate of the University, by an enormous majority, have expressed approbation of the scheme, and I cannot but regard it as a serious reflection upon the Senate — upon those who were in the majority on the occasion of the discussion of this question—to treat them as indifferent either to the standard of the degrees or to the interests of what I will call the external students. If the members of the Senate shared the view of the opponents of the scheme that the consequences which they assumed would, in fact, necessarily result, I venture to say that the Senate of the University would have been found in the front rank of opposition to the scheme, and if they support the scheme it is not because they are indifferent either to the standard of education or to the interests of the external students, but because they believe that the present work of the University may be made even more valuable than it has been, without such risks as the opponents of the scheme consider must necessarily attach to it. It is difficult to deal in the way of argument with a statement such as that to which I have alluded, because it proceeds rather upon assumption than upon proof, but I would invite your Lordships' attention to this consideration. Who would be most likely to be the best judges of the desirability of these changes? Surely those who have had for many years the charge of the working of the University under its present system. Its degrees are of high value, and if a high standard has been maintained it has been due to the Senate, in whom the entire management of the University has been vested; because, although the graduates in Convocation may pass resolutions, they have no executive power at all, and if the Senate had been indifferent to the maintenance of a high standard the present high standard could not have been maintained. The fear seems to be that the scheme which has been proposed would give the teachers in London schools and colleges more power in the direction of examinations and course of study than they possess at present, and that a likely consequence of their obtaining that greater power would be a lowering of the standard of education at the University. But here again we are not without experience. First, let me say that the high standard that has been maintained has been largely due to the examiners. One would suppose from some observations that have been made that the Senate has always been struggling to keep up the high standard of the examinations against the examiners, who, if left to themselves, would have lowered that standard. But nothing of the kind has occurred. I do not in the whole of my experience recollect a single appeal to the Senate as against the examiners on the ground that the standard of the examinations was too low. On the contrary, the only appeals that have been made to the Senate against the examiners have been in favour of diminishing the rigour of the examinations, which it was thought that the examiners had raised somewhat too high. Who have the examiners been who have thus maintained the standard of the examinations? They have very largely consisted of the teachers of the London schools. ["Hear, hear!"] There is no class of degree of the University of London of which the standard is so high, or which is more respected, than those which are given in the faculty of medicine; and I believe that it is beyond controversy when I say that a large proportion of the examiners in the medical faculty have been teachers in the London medical schools. ["Hear, hear!"] That is a matter of experience which is of much more value than any mere assumption. There is a very large consensus of opinion amongst these teachers, who have had much greater experience than can be claimed by any body of graduates, in favour of the proposed changes. Who can best say whether such changes will be detrimental or beneficial to education? How is such a matter to be determined? The question has been considered by impartial men, who are at the same time great educational authorities and men of experience. What is the use of referring to a Royal Commission so composed, questions of this description, if the opinions of any class of graduates in the University, however much they may be entitled to respect, are to be treated as an absolute barrier to any such scheme as this ever taking effect? The Royal Commission have impartially considered the views of those who are in favour of the scheme and of those who are opposed to it, and they have arrived at the conclusion that the scheme is one which is likely to be of public advantage and will be detrimental to no one. If the view of the Royal Commission is not to be taken as conclusive on the one side or the other, who is to determine the question except Parliament? ["Hear, hear!"] It has been said that a Measure such as this ought not to be passed without its being first submitted to the vote of the body of graduates, because under the existing charter no new charter can be accepted without their consent. That statement, which has been so simply put forward in the statement of facts to which I have alluded, appears to me to press too far the condition in the existing charter, and to overlook the purpose for which that condition was inserted. A controversy having arisen between the graduates and the Senate as to the right of the former to have some voice in the management of the University, it was determined by the Royal Commission that, whilst the Senate was still to remain the executive power of the University, Convocation was to have the power to elect a certain number of graduates upon the Senate, and if the condition in question had not been inserted all the advantages which the graduates possessed might have been speedily lost by the Senate, without agreement with Convocation, accepting a new charter depriving the graduates of all that they had gained. That was the purpose of the veto clause; but surely it is pressing it far beyond its just weight and authority to assert that, because a clause of that sort was inserted in the charter, it is not open to Parliament, acting upon the recommendations of the Royal Commission, to reorganise the University so as to make it more efficient as a University for London, because to do so would be a violation of the existing rights of the graduates. What Parliament has to determine is what is best from an educational point of view for the best interests of the country, and therefore it is not possible to admit the argument that Parliament cannot take that course because a body of graduates has vetoed a scheme which Parliament believes to be in the public interest. ["Hear, hear!"] The graduates have taken their degrees, it is true, but how can that fact give them any right to prevent the reconstruction of the University in a way that is considered to be for the public advantage? ["Hear, hear!"] It seems to me that those who put forward that argument overlook this further point—that the Charter which gave Convocation this veto required that it should be expressed by those present in Convocation who had heard the arguments on either side. It was said that the decision of Convocation in this matter should go for nothing, because it did not represent the view of those graduates who are scattered throughout the country. But I would ask your Lordships this question—whether, if the reforms of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge had depended upon the veto of the graduates of those Universities scattered throughout the country, how many of those reforms would have been accomplished? ["Hear, hear!"] That seems to me to be a sufficient answer to the argument to which I have just referred. ["Hear, hear!"] I only desire further to remark that I think that the scheme of the Cowper Commission, although on the whole an admirable one, is susceptible of improvement in its details, leaving its general principles untouched. The very object of appointing the statutory Commission is to carry out those recommendations, and that the details should be looked at by a body of able men, and that the weight and force of the objections raised to those details should be fully considered and, where necessary, modified. I cannot conceive that a body of such men so working will find it impossible to devise a plan which shall maintain the high standard and character of the University degrees, and yet be perfectly fair to the claims of all students who may be outside of the University. No one is more conscious than myself of the great work that the University has done in the past—although I am the last person who should dwell upon that point in your Lordships' House—and I venture to hope that it may do even greater work in the future if it is reconstituted in the manner now proposed, and I believe that its educational influence for good will be even higher than it is at present. ["Hear, hear!"] I know that some of the opponents of the present scheme desire to create another University in London alongside of the University of London. That is a question which has been considered by men of great weight and authority, who have very largely pronounced against the proposal. The House of Commons has emphatically pronounced against it, and I believe that the country has also pronounced against it in an equally emphatic manner. ["Hear, hear!"] Under these circumstances, I believe the best hope for the solution of this question, and for the increase, even, of the valuable work which the University of London has done, lies in the direction proposed by the noble Duke. ["Hear, hear!"]

*EARL COWPER, speaking as Chairman of the Commission which considered this question, said that when the work of that body first began he was prepossessed in favour of the Gresham scheme, because he thought everybody would admit that, if there was to be a second University, that scheme would have been at least as good as any other which could have been devised. But he found that the large majority of his fellow Commissioners were of a contrary opinion, and as the evidence proceeded he became more and more convinced that the great bulk of opinion throughout the country, and more particularly in the Metropolis, was not in favour of a second University, but in favour of one. The objections to having two Universities side by side in one town appeared greater the more they were looked into. It transpired that the University of London were not only willing but anxious to undertake teaching work themselves, and they rightly felt that if another University was once started to do this they would themselves be for ever precluded from doing anything of the sort. The great difficulty to the Commission in dealing with the matter always seemed to be that of the University of London performing a double function—namely, the function it exercised now of offering degrees to everybody who came and at the same time carrying on a system of teaching which would eventually lead up to an exmination as the crowning point of it all. The Report set out how it was thought these difficulties could be met. They had left questions of detail—as to the exact amount of similarity of the two degrees and whether or not the final degree might in both cases be made the same, or only of the same value—to a certain extent to the discretion of the Senate, as they considered that some degree of elasticity and discretion should be left, in smaller particulars, to the governing body of the University. He could not help feeling pretty sure that everybody who went through the voluminous mass of evidence would gradually come to the same conclusion as that at which he had arrived. It was quite true there were two very eminent Members of the Commission who still expressed a wish for two Universities, but he thought as the investigation proceeded they became convinced it was perfectly hopeless that they could ever carry out what they desired, and sooner than leave this great question any longer unsettled, probably for an indefinte number of years, they joined the other Commissioners in signing the Report. That Report, therefore, was unanimously signed by the whole of the 13 Commissioners. He was very glad to feel that everybody would now be able to say that every objection, even the most frivolous, had been carefully and properly considered by one like the noble Duke who possessed a most mpartial and most judicial intellect. He could not help hoping that, though the Bill had been introduced at so late a date, there might be some chance of its becoming law before the end of the Session. [" Hear, hear ! "] The sooner this matter, which had been so long before the country, was settled the better it would be. At one moment there appeared to be an entire unanimity of opinion on the subject, but dissensions had already begun to crop up ; they would probably go on increasing if there were further delay, and it was not yet quite beyond the reach of possibility that this great question might be again indefinitely shelved if allowed to go unsettled much longer. [" Hear, hear ! "]

*Lord PLAYFAIR said that he introduced a Bill last year for the purpose of converting the present London University into a teaching University, and as the noble Duke had accepted that as the basis of his Bill he would strongly urge that the Government should take the matter up in earnest, considering the large amount of support which they now had in regard to the scheme. This scheme had been under the consideration of educationists for a whole generation. It had been the subject of exhaustive inquiries in the past years by two Royal Commissions and one Committee of the Privy Council. The noble Duke informed their Lordships, on the First Reading, that this Bill was supported in its principles by the Senate of the University of London, and by the Convocation of its graduates, as well as by every constituent college which, in the new organisation, was to form part of the teaching University. Their Lordships had no doubt received, within the last few days, a statement of objections to the Bill. There were a considerable number of graduates of the existing London University who did not wish it to be disturbed. There never had been an attempt to obtain University reform in any part of the United Kingdom without a like opposition of graduates. Parliament had to invent an outside authority, in the shape of a statutory Commission, to overcome such internal obstacles to reform, and this Bill followed the course which was pursued in Oxford and Cambridge, in the four Scotch Universities, and in the Queen's University of Ireland. Three times the Convocation of the existing London University had met and discussed the principles of this Bill, and, by an increasing and finally by an overwhelming majority, had pronounced in their favour. The minority of the Convocation, and individual graduates in the country, refused to accept their defeat, and were still alarmed at the proposed changes in the constitution of the present University. At the basis of their opposition was the fear that the new University might lower the value of degrees, and thus lessen the honour in which existing graduates were now held. This fear did not seem to be shared to a large extent by graduates who had the highest degrees. At the meeting of Convocation on January 21 of this year the principles of this Bill were approved by 463 ayes, against 242 noes. Were the dissentients found chiefly among the higher graduates, who would have chief cause to fear that their degrees might sink in value ? There were 199 doctors of different faculties at the meeting of Convocation, and of these 74 per cent. were in favour of the Bill, and only 26 per cent. against it. In the next higher degree 83 masters voted, 76 per cent. being in favour of the Bill, and 24 per cent. against it. It was only when they came to the lowest degree that the opposition became considerable. Of the 423 bachelors, 60 per cent. were still in favour of the Bill, but 40 per cent. were against it. Therefore the doctors and masters, whose high degree gave them great honour throughout the country, when they voted were not afraid of reforms, and did not think that an organised University would make the degree of a lower value than would a mere examining University ; and it was only when they came to the bachelors that they found there was some substantial fear in regard to the matter. They had never had it explained why an organised teaching University should think it to their interest to lower the value of the degrees. One would say that their interest was to keep up the degrees to the highest value, and he thought the graduates, when they considered the question, would gradually come to this view. He would like just to say a word as to why it was they were obliged to ask for a complete reorganisation of the London University. It had been an admirable and faithful University as far as its powers went. Its examinations had been thorough and honest and high, but it had failed because it had no powers to regulate or co-ordinate higher education either in London or in the provinces. The proof of that was that although their whole functions extended throughout the provinces, the provinces could not find the intellectual resources which they wished in the London University, so there had been a continuous creation of new University centres. London was the only large town—he would not say the only capital—which did not possess an organised teaching University, for though every large town had not a University centre, yet it was joined to one by federation. It was a most melancholy fact—a fact that was a disgrace to the Metropolis, that, although the towns of great population possessed organised teaching Universities, the London University did not yet do so. It was impossible that the London University, with its present powers and its present charters, could constitute a teaching University in accord with the science of the time. Teaching by verbalism was more and more going out in science. Lectures were of far less importance than experimental work in laboratories. For this purpose well equipped colleges were absolutely necessary, and the object of the University would be to raise itself continually up to the level of science. The object of this scheme for which educationists had been agitating for so many years, was to produce this result. There had been a fear, more among the public than the graduates, that if they had an organised teaching University it might not be efficiently open to all who came, whether they had gone through collegiate life or not. There were two parts to that question. One was that there would be less and less demand upon the London University as the University centres increased. On the other hand, there was a great popular education growing amongst the people. That was evidenced, not only by the University extension, which was spreading so widely over all parts of the Kingdom, but also by the technical institutions and the means of obtaining a knowledge of science which the people now had. It would be hard if, in these institutions they could obtain a knowledge equal in amount to the education which was given at any other University, the doors should not be wide open to them, and this scheme provided that the Commissioners should take care that this part of the University scheme for London was preserved in the new teaching University. The object of the Bill was to provide a system of education capable of raising itself continually to the heightening and advancing state of knowledge. It did not provide the means, however ; but if they erected an organised University of which Londoners and the people of this country would be proud, he was perfectly sure that the funds would not be lacking. He would give one instance of why they should have that confidence. The late Royal Commission appointed a small Committee, consisting of Professor Burdon Sanderson and himself, to consider the scientific part of the Report ; and they recommended the foundation of research laboratories for chemistry and physics, independent of the existing colleges, but open to any of the graduates who showed the power of advancing the boundaries of science by original researches. The recommendation was adopted after some hesitation on the part of their colleagues, because they thought they were asking too much, for no funds were in view for building and equipping such laboratories or for maintaining them when equipped. The generosity of one scientific manufacturer—Mr. Mond—had already founded these laboratories, which two years ago looked so hopeless of accomplishment. Like results would follow in regard to other recommendations of the Commission. He would like to point out how important it was that a large community like London should put itself into the position of having organised University teaching as other places had. They were doing nothing in this country at the present moment compared with what was being done in other countries for the promotion of higher University education. After the Franco-German war the French Institute had a most interesting discussion upon the question, "Why did our late crisis produce no great people in this country?" and the universal feeling in the Institute was that France had not sufficiently attended to her higher University education. Renan, in summing up the whole Debate said:—

> "It is German science that won the day at Sadowa and Sedan. The German national spirit is a product of the German Universities, and the German Fatherland is a product of that spirit."

Inspired by these views France since the war had spent nearly 100 millions of francs in equipping her higher colleges, so that they might suffice for modern scientific requirements; and it now spent annually about as much as Germany in higher education. Germany had not stood still. When she acquired Strasburg as a result of the war, she spent upon that small town no less than £711,000 sterling in the building of a new University and its scientific laboratories, and annually voted above £50,000 sterling for their maintenance. The future competitions of the world would not be determined by armies and navies alone, but would be mainly governed by the intellectual development of the people. In the presence of these facts, surely England could not allow its great capital to remain the only large town, either in the United Kingdom or abroad, which had no means by which organised University teaching could be given to her people. He heartily supported the Second Reading of this Bill.

*LORD REAY: As I have been connected with this movement for a teaching University since its commencement in 1884, and as I am closely connected with University College, your Lordships will, I trust, allow me to say a few words in favour of the Second Reading of this Bill. The main object of the Bill is to put an end to an anomaly. London has a variety of institutions in which University education is given, but which have not the power of conferring degrees, and on the other hand London has an Examining Board unconnected with the teaching institutions. The institutions have no crown to their edifice, and the University has no foundations. The object of the scheme of the last Royal Commission was to constitute a corporate body out of these scattered fragments. Recognition is given on broad and well-defined lines to University teaching wherever it exists. The scheme aims at raising the standard of University teaching in the Metropolis. Great encouragement is given to new developments. At the same time care was taken not to fall into the evil of undue decentralisation. The tendency towards specialisation in all branches is inevitable. But in special schools this tendency is accentuated. In a University influences are at work which counteract it. The specialist does obtain at a University a certain amount of general culture. Hence the co-ordination of faculties in a University which gives to a University its encylopædic character. Hitherto the University of London has had a centrifugal activity; henceforth it will be a centrifugal force. The institutions which hitherto have had no bond of union will henceforth live a common life and be united by a common aim—research in all directions. The University, through the methods of research which it will inculcate, will develop independent thought and individuality. If it succeeds, the narrowness of too detailed specialisation will disappear. Courses of studies will have to be so organised that on the one hand they secure thoroughness, and on the other hand exclude onesidedness. The student will be guided, stimulated, not driven.

Examinations will be real tests of education, but they will not interfere with the pursuit of knowledge, which is the main object of higher education. The examinations will have the closest connection with the teaching, leaving it a maximum of freedom. Examinations will no longer be the master, but the servant. The standard of teaching will not be high because the standard of examinations is high, but you will be able to raise the standard of your examinations because you have raised the standard of your teaching. The only way of raising the standard of teaching at a University is by obtaining the best teachers. If you want to prevent the best London Professor from seeking employment at other Universities, you must give them in the London University the same advantages in order to retain them. A London University once constituted will attract the best teaching power in the Empire, in the same way as it is attracted to Berlin, Paris, and Vienna. It is an absurdity to maintain that University teaching must be kept up to the mark by examinations unconnected with the teaching. If the teachers in the various institutions in London are doing their duty, they have assuredly the right to be placed on the same footing as their colleagues in other Universities, both here and abroad. It would be easy to mention names of London Professors who enjoy a European reputation, of whom any University would be proud, and who are not occupying the position to which they are in every respect entitled. London, with its population larger than Scotland, has a right to one University if Scotland has four Universities, and it is nothing less than an injustice if London is debarred from a privilege which every other capital of Europe enjoys. The students of the new University will probably be drawn mainly from the middle classes and from the most promising youth of the working classes. No favour need be shown to the latter; all they ask for is that the opportunity should be given them, by scholarships and other openings, to distinguish themselves. Students from all parts of the Empire are enrolled at the existing institutions, and I have no doubt that the new University will tend to cement closer relations with India and the colonies. I do not share the apprehensions of those who fear that such a University will be unable to perform the duties which have hitherto been discharged by the London University. Examinations for internal students must be subordinate to the teaching. But if, as I have shown, the teaching will have to be of a very high character, degrees will necessarily be correspondingly valuable. The Royal Commission certainly did not contemplate any lowering of the standard of education; neither had it any wish to deprive external students of any guarantees of impartiality which they might require. The statutory Commission will no doubt give effect to the injunction of the Bill that the interests of all classes of students should be adequately secured. In France a similar problem has been satisfactorily solved. Besides the State Universities, there are "facultés libres." The students at these faculties have to be examined by the Professors of the State Universities in order to obtain degrees. No complaints, I have been informed, have been made with regard to the fairness of these examinations. I think that the same result would attend the experiment here, and that the examiners would endeavour to show the utmost impartiality. But if the external students prefer special examiners, by all means supply them. But, my Lords, there is another aspect of the question to which I must call your special attention. We have in London the resources which are required to constitute a splendid University. We have the personnel, we have the hospitals, the scientific laboratories, the unrivalled collections of natural history, archæology, ethnology, libraries, archives, etc. What we need is the organisation which will turn these resources to the best account. Meanwhile, abroad higher education is constantly improved, and the field of operations expanded. The history of recent expansions is most interesting. I shall only mention some of the most striking facts. At the University of Vienna, with more than 8,000 students, 530 courses of lectures are given: 219 in the philosophical faculty, of these for history and geography 27; for mathematics and science 96, and in the medical faculty—230 courses of lectures for 3,000 students. In Prussia, since 1875, the annual expenditure on Universities, high schools, and technical schools has nearly doubled. It amounted in 1875 to more than 10 millions of marks; for the current financial year the figure is: more than 18½ millions. For technical education the rise is from 543,192 marks to 1,792,298 marks. For the nine Universities and two other institutions, from 5,177,392 marks to 8,389,270 marks. The German Empire has spent since 1873, on the University of Strassburg, 12 million marks. The contribution of the Empire is less than half the total expenditure; the larger half is paid by Alsace-Lorraine. But the progress in France is even more startling. The Second Empire found a Budget for higher education of 3,938,656 francs. In 1870 it left as a legacy to the Republic a Budget of 5,852,471 francs, which has been increased to 15,356,615 francs. The Republic has nearly trebled the expenditure of the Empire on higher education. Bordeaux, Lyons, and Montpeleier each received a law faculty; Nancy a faculty of medicine and a higher school of pharmacy; Bordeaux, Lyons, Toulouse, faculties of medicine, including pharmacy; Besançon, Bordeaux, Lyons, Pic-du-Midi and Puy-de-Dôme observatories; Meudon a central meteorological Institute and an Observatory of Physical Astronomy; Rome a school of archæology, to do for Italy what the French school at Athens does for Hellenism. In 1870 the faculties had 650 different courses; this has been increased to 1,000. Whereas in 1870 the arts faculty of Lyons taught these five subjects—philosophy, history, ancient literature, French literature, foreign literature; in 1893 it teaches these 25 subjects—philosophy, history of philosophy, the science of education, Egyptology, Greek and Latin antiquities, history and antiquities of the middle ages, modern history, contemporary history, history of art, general geography, physical geography, palæography, epigraphy, Greek literature, Latin literature, French literature, literature of the middle ages, foreign literature, German literature, English literature, Sanskrit and comparative grammar, classical philology. In other faculties the same extension obtains. The number of students has increased from 9,500 under the Empire to 24,397, of whom 1,432 are foreigners. The ordinary expenditure for the various faculties this year is 12,954,181 francs, and since 1885 the total extraordinary expenditure on the faculties has amounted to 10,271,734 francs. To this must be added the expenditure on such establishments as the Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Ecole des Langues Orientales vivantes, the Collège de France, and similar institutions, which amounts this year to 3,487,000 francs. In 1875 the figures were for the faculties, 5,154,581 francs, and for the other establishments 2,480,278 francs. The Ecole des Sciences Politiques, under the able management of M. Boutmy, is a most remarkable institution, which is entirely independent of the State, and not included in the expenditure I have mentioned. But this year will be memorable in the annals of higher education in France, because Parliament has created provincial Universities. Formerly there was one University. By this measure the University is decentralised, and the faculties in the provinces are to lead an independent corporate life. In France this year Paris ceases to exercise the paramount authority in France over the various faculties. Let us hope this year may be equally memorable in our annals, and that London will be endowed with a University in every respect the equal of the new University of Paris. France since 1870 has had a great number of Ministers of Education, but if there has been steady progress on well-defined lines, the credit of this progress is mainly due to three permanent officials—M. du Mesnil, who was director of higher education from 1868 to1879; M. Dumont, from 1879 to 1884; and M. Liard, the present eminent director from 1884. It is impossible to exaggerate the influence on the younger generations of Frenchmen of these vigorous efforts of the Republic to create an intellectual aristocracy. Those who have seen the new Sorbonne, the new University buildings at Lyons, will not hesitate to vote for this Bill, which does not involve any State expenditure. The object of this Bill is not merely educational. It has a much wider bearing. What is the cause of all this expenditure on the Continent of

Europe, and I might have given you equally remarkable facts about the United States? It is the consciousness that wealth and military power are insufficient, that higher education must provide the intellectual capital which agriculture, industry, trade require. If we are to hold our own in this race, we have to use the same means. I consider that this Bill will materially increase what I venture to call one of the chief conditions of our national greatness. In Scotland we have always endeavoured to make the most of our educational capabilities. If London had been the capital of Scotland, I think it would have started this University, not at the end, but at the beginning of this century. A London University will not be a mere local institution; it will be eventually an Imperial institution, benefiting all classes throughout the Empire. The progress of this Bill is watched, anxiously watched, by scientific men here as well as abroad. Abroad they envy the future which is in store for a University which will have unrivalled treasures at its disposal. My late right hon. Friend, Mr. Huxley, was almost driven to despair by the failure of previous attempts. We cannot honour his memory more effectually than by securing the rapid passage of this Bill through its various stages. There is such practical unanimity among all those who have the higher interests of the country at heart, that failure to give London a teaching University would be nothing less than a national disgrace. [*Cheers.*]

LORD KELVIN felt that the reasons already put before their Lordships for accepting the Bill were overwhelmingly strong, and he only wished to intervene because he had been mentioned as one apparently partially opposed to the provisions of the Bill. As a Member of Lord Cowper's Commission he joined with Sir George Stokes and Mr. Weldon in a note expressing a preference for a separate teaching University. They had some doubt as to whether or not the functions of a teaching University could practically be added to the duties so well performed by the University of London of examining for degrees and conferring degrees upon students who had not had the benefit of instruction in colleges or Universities in any part of the world. They felt the gravity of the objection that might be held to establishing another University—a rival University—beside the University in London; but when it seemed, as it did then seem to them, hopeless that the University of London could be got to undertake the duty of organising and carrying on a teaching University, they felt that the paramount object of having a teaching University in London should not on that account be given it. On his own behalf, and, he believed, on behalf of his colleagues in the note, he could say they would only have been too glad to have accepted what was now proposed by this Bill. Their doubts and hesitation had been completely set aside by what had passed. Personally he thoroughly approved of the Bill. He believed that an immense addition to the usefulness of the existing colleges in London would result from the passing of the Measure. It was an anomalous state of things that there was no teaching University in London. It was not only London, but the United Kingdom, and, indeed the whole world, that would benefit by the passing of the Bill, and therefore his desire was strong and evident, not only that the Bill might pass speedily through their Lordships' House, but that it would be taken up by the House of Commons and made an Act of Parliament before the close of the present Session.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY said that some years ago he had the honour to be President of University College, and at that time there was put forward a scheme for a separate University such as Lord Kelvin thought might be the only alternative. So strong was his feeling against the scheme that he resigned his office when he found there was a majority against him. He was accompanied in taking that course by the late Sir Julian Goldsmid, Mr. Cozens-Hardy, and others he could name. He then felt it would be a great misfortune if there were set up two rival Universities in London, and, therefore, he need hardly say how greatly he rejoiced that they had arrived at last at a point where they seemed to have in view a conjunction of teaching and examining in the University of London. But he did not undervalue the opposition raised to the Bill, because he had, in some degree, sympathised with the view that the success of the London University in conducting a system of examinations might, be impaired by the changes which were contemplated. There was a fear amongst many Members of the University that that success might be impaired, because the teachers would have great influence, and they might, without intending it, so use their influence upon the conduct of the examinations as to place the external students at a disadvantage, He was free to say he himself had not been without that fear. He was the last person to undervalue the function of a teaching University. He believed it to be absolutely indispensable for the due conduct of education in London that there should be a teaching University with all the powers which had been described by previous speakers, but at the same time he deprecated the injuring in any way of the functions of examination which had been performed by the London University. It was perfectly posssible to join the two functions, and when they were joined the University would have far more power and far more usefulness than it had ever had before. He was glad to see the noble Duke had inserted in the Bill the provision that the Commissioners were to see that provision was made for securing adequately the interests of collegiate and non-collegiate students respectively. That ought to reassure those who had placed themselves in opposition to the Bill, because an impartial Statutes Commission, such as the noble Duke intended to appoint, would be perfectly able to see that the statutes of the University were so framed that there would be no chance of any portion of the University work being impaired by a wrong administration of its powers. He cordially welcomed the Bill, and could only express his regret that there was no chance at present of the Measure being passed this Session.

Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

House adjourned at Seven o'clock, till To-morrow a Quarter past Four o'clock.

*Earl of Kimberley.*

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Thursday, 23rd July 1896.*

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## LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (ENGLAND).

Copy presented,—of the Annual Returns for 1894–5, Part I. (Poor Rate Return and Valuation for the Poor Rates) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.—[No. 309.]

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## CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICT COUNCILS BILL.

Lords' Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

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## LIVERPOOL COURT OF PASSAGE BILL.

Lords' Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

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## GOVERNMENT OFFICES (APPROPRIATION OF SITES).

Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence, brought up, and read [Inquiry not completed];

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.—[No. 310.]

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## PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Twelfth Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

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## PETROLEUM.

Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence, brought up, and read [Inquiry not completed];

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.—[No. 311.]

### NEATH, PONTARDAWE, AND BRYNAMAN RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

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### ABENSUR'S NATURALISATION BILL [H.L.].

Reported, without Amendment; Bill to be read the Third time.

Bill read 1°, 10th July; 2°, 17th July.

Leave to the Committee to make a Special Report; Special Report brought up, and read.

"Mr. James William Lowther reported from the Committee on Abensur's Naturalisation Bill [*Lords*] that they had agreed to the following Special Report:—

That the Bill seeks power to alter the general law by granting to Isaac Aaron Abensur the same rights, privileges, and capacities which he would or might have enjoyed if a certificate of naturalisation had been granted to him under the hand of one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State in accordance with the provisions of the Naturalisation Act 1870 which prescribes a residence in the United Kingdom for a period of five years.

That it was proved to the Committee that the Petitioner's application for the Bill had been recommended by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the ground of public services rendered by the Petitioner and his family, and it was also proved that he had obtained a certificate from one of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State respecting his conduct, and also that the consent of the Crown to his application had been signified by the Lord Chancellor previous to the Second Reading of the Bill being allowed to take place in the House of Lords, as required by the Standing Orders of that House. Under these circumstances the Committee had passed the Bill without Amendment, but had determined to report the same specially to the House.

Mr. James William Lowther further reported from the Committee: That they had examined the allegations of the Bill, and found the same to be true, and had gone through the Bill and directed him to report the same without Amendment.

Report and Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

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### STANNARIES BILL [H.L.].

Read the First time; to be read a Second time upon Monday next, and to be printed.—[Bill 324.]

### CEMETERIES BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged:—Bill withdrawn.

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## *QUESTIONS.*

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### LOUGH CORRIB.

MR. W. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to a resolution passed unanimously by the Guardians of the Oughterard Union, county Galway, in which they urge upon the Government in Ireland the necessity for bridging Lough Corrib at Knock Ferry; and whether he would recommend a free grant from the Treasury to the Congested Districts Board or to the Grand Jury of county Galway for the carrying out of this important and useful work?

*THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I could not give an answer to this Question without making detailed inquiry respecting the projected work. As the hon. Member is doubtless aware, the matter was brought under the notice of my predecessor who did not see his way to recommend the Treasury to provide funds for the purpose.

### MATABELELAND.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies what arrangements have been made to bring to the knowledge of the Native leaders in Matabeleland the promise that, if they surrender their arms before 10th August, they shall be treated with leniency; and whether Her Majesty's Government is now prepared to consider the suggestion that some agent or agents, not engaged in military operations against the Natives, shall be deputed to assure them that, if they submit themselves to the authority of the Crown, they will be equitably and humanely dealt with?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I gather from the newspaper reports that the local authorities are taking the best practical means of making known the amnesty proclamation to the insurgents—that is to say, they are releasing prisoners of war and sending them back to their friends with the information. I am perfectly satisfied with the steps taken, and do not intend to interfere with the discretion of Sir F. Carrington and Sir R. Martin.

In reply to Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, (Sheffield, Ecclesall),

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he had received no further information as to the actual fighting beyond what had been published. The information as to the rebellion was given immediately to the Press, including that relating to the fighting under Sir F. Carrington on Monday. He had received a telegram which contained an account of the fighting by a column sent off under Captain Lang, which appears to have resulted successfully for the column and to have led to the death of 90 of the rebels.

MR. H. C. F. LUTTRELL (Devon, Tavistock): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in regard to the prospective dangers of famine in Matabeleland and Mashonaland, and of the future of that country, he will issue orders to prevent any unnecessary destruction of food?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have to refer the hon. Member to the answer which I gave on Tuesday last to similar questions put by him and by the hon. Member for the Leigh Division of Lancashire; to that answer I have nothing to add.

MR. LUTTRELL: May I ask whether the right hon. Gentleman is satisfied that there is no danger?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have full confidence in my officers on the spot, and I do not intend to interfere with their discretion. [*Cheers.*]

## NEWCASTLE HARBOUR (COUNTY DOWN).

MR. M. McCARTAN (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury with reference to the construction of a new pier and harbour works at Newcastle, in the County of Down, whether his attention has been called to a Resolution unanimously adopted by the County Down Grand Jury on the 11th instant, whereby they undertook to present for raising a sum not exceeding £8,000 from the county at large, to supplement the sum of £5,000 offered by the Treasury towards the work; whether the Treasury is satisfied with the Resolution; and, if every facility will be given for carrying out the work in accordance with the terms of the Resolution referred to?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: With the permission of my hon. Friend, I will reply to this Question. The Resolution passed by the Grand Jury contains a proposal which differs in certain particulars from the offer made by the Treasury. The Irish Government is in communication with the Grand Jury on the subject, and I trust that a settlement will be arrived at which will enable the work to be proceeded with.

## IRISH TEACHERS' PENSION FUND.

MR. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer—(1) whether it is intended to secure the £10,000 a year promised to the Irish Teachers' Pension Fund by Act of Parliament; (2) whether the grant of £10,000 a year will render the Fund actuarially solvent, having regard alike to existing obligations and to future obligations to future teachers; and, if not, how the Treasury propose to make up the deficit; and, (3) whether it will be possible, out of the proposed grant to the Pension Fund, to make occasional compassionate allowances to the widows and children of teachers?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): An answer cannot be given to the questions contained in the two first paragraphs of the Question until the inquiry now in progress has been completed, and the facts ascertained have been fully considered. So far as I am aware, the Teachers' Pension Fund is not, and will not be, liable for compassionate grants to widows or children. I may explain that the Government have recently offered to give some facilities to teachers who desire to effect life insurances on favourable terms

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury—(1) whether the Pension Fund of the Irish National Teachers is under the control of the Treasury; (2) whether the second quinquennial revision, long overdue, is completed; and (3), when the audit and report may be expected?

*THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The answer to the first paragraph is Yes. If the hon. Member will kindly refer to my answers to the hon. Member for Londonderry on the 8th June and 21st July, he will see that the second quinquennial valuation has been received and has been submitted to the Government Actuary, who has furnished a confidential Report upon it, and that a Committee has been appointed to consider the steps necessary to establish the solvency of the Fund but has not yet reported. As soon as that Report has been received and considered by the Government, a full explanation of the position of the Fund will be made to Parliament.

MR. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin, Co., N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the proposed grant in aid of the Irish Teachers' Pension Fund will to any extent benefit the teachers in Irish Convent National Schools; and, if not, how is it proposed to recoup those teachers for the loss they have sustained by the now admittedly insufficient amounts granted to Ireland in respect of the school grant for the last four years?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The proposed grant in aid of the Teachers' Pension Fund cannot benefit the teachers of some 268 convent and monastery schools who have not adopted the principle of classification, and are paid accordingly by capitation allowance instead of by class salaries. The Inquiry in the second part of the Question should be addressed to my right hon. Friend the Secretary to the Treasury.

## SUPPLEMENTARY FEE GRANTS.

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the fact that the teachers in convent schools, who were deprived of a portion of their residual grant out of the Irish Fee Grant in the same way as other teachers, during the financial years ending March 1893, 1894, and 1895, will receive no benefit from the grant to the Pension Fund; and, whether, having regard to the fact that there is no difficulty in now apportioning the sum which they ought to have then received, he will propose to Parliament any scheme to repay to them that sum?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: I am aware that there are differences in many respects between the position of the regular national teachers in Ireland, and that of the teachers in convent schools. But the hon. Member's Question is based on the assumption that the teachers have a right to be paid more than the grant which has been already paid by Parliament for the years in question, and as I cannot admit that assumption, I am not prepared to make the proposal suggested.

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, what was the amount of the residual capitation grant under the Irish Fee Grant payable in the years ending March 1893, 1894, and 1895 respectively to convent schools and to teachers who have claims on the pension fund; and, whether there would be any difficulty in making up the deficit in the payment to convent schools by a distribution among those schools during the current year?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have called for a report on this Question, but not having yet received it, must ask the hon. and learned Member to repeat the Question to-morrow.

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Irish and Scotch Supplementary Fee Grants will be available for distribution among those teachers in Ireland or school managers in Scotland who would have received the money if it had been voted during the last financial year?

*MR. HANBURY: The intention of the Treasury is shown in the footnotes to the Supplementary Estimates now before the House. These Estimates are for the additional sums required in order to increase the amount of the grants included in the Scotch and Irish Education Estimates for 1895–6 by 11–80ths and 9–80ths respectively of the Supplementary Vote for English Education in

1895–6. I understand, therefore, that the money will be available for distribution, but the actual distribution is a matter for the Scotch and Irish Offices, not the Treasury.

### GRANSHA ASYLUM (LONDONDERRY).

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether he has received copies of resolutions passed by the Corporation of Londonderry relating to the proposed asylum at Gransha; (2) whether his attention has been called to recent reports of the medical officer of the existing asylum calling attention to the overcrowding in the asylum, which seriously lessens the chance of the recovery of patients; (3) whether he can say what is the number of patients from the city of Derry, and what is the number from the rest of the county; and (4) whether he will press forward the erection of an adequate asylum on a site easily accessible from all parts of the country?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: My attention has been directed to the resolutions referred to, and also to the recent report of the resident medical superintendent on the overcrowding of the existing asylum. The number of patients in the asylum from the city of Londonderry is 124, and from the county 314. As regards the last paragraph, the matter is still engaging the consideration of the Government.

### POST OFFICE APPOINTMENTS (IRELAND).

MR. KNOX: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the promises of successive Postmaster Generals, that in filling up vacancies in Ireland, special consideration should be paid to the claims of men on the Irish establishment, still regulate these appointments; and whether a second class assistant surveyor in England has recently been appointed to be a first class assistant surveyor in Ireland; and, if so, whether second class officers in Ireland may look for promotion to first class offices in England?

*MR. HANBURY: The claims of men on the Irish establishment to vacancies arising on that establishment are always specially considered by the Postmaster General as by his predecessors. A surveyor's clerk serving in an English district has recently—on promotion to the rank of assistant surveyor—been sent to the northern district of Ireland in the place of an assistant surveyor transferred to Scotland who was recently promoted to his present position from a surveyor's clerkship in Ireland. I must add, however, that there is only one surveying establishment for the three kingdoms, and any surveyor's clerk serving in any one of the three kingdoms is eligible for promotion to any vacancy in either of the other kingdoms, and in weighing the claims of these officers for promotion, the Postmaster General has regard to their respective claims from seniority, service and ability.

### COUNTY CARLOW INFIRMARY.

MR. C. J. ENGLEDOW (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in view of the fact that 5 Geo. III., c. 20, provides that no patient shall be treated in the County Carlow Infirmary but on the written recommendation of a Governor except in cases of sudden accident, and that all such written authorities shall be carefully preserved as vouchers that the patients were admitted in accordance with law, will he state how many patients were treated during the last five years, and how many of that number on the written authority or recommendation of a Governor, as ascertained by reference to these written documents?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The hon. Member has already asked me a number of questions on this subject. I desire to make an appeal to the House, and to the hon. Member himself, whether it is not against the public interest, and also an abuse of the privileges of hon. Members, that questions in regard to minute details of the management of Carlow Infirmary should be constantly brought to the attention of Parliament. [" Hear, hear! "]

MR. ENGLEDOW: I wish to say that the only reason why I continue to ask the questions is because of the unsatisfactory nature of the right hon. Gentleman's replies.

*Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I have already stated that the number of persons treated in the infirmary during the last five years was 4,647. Of these 1,043 were intern patients. I am informed that the provisions of the law as regards admission of patients by authority of a Governor are habitually complied with, though it appears that the orders of admission, where such are necessary, have not been carefully preserved in accordance with the terms of the Act quoted in the Question.

Mr. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will state the legal authority upon which the Governors of the County Carlow Infirmary receive into that institution, which is provided solely by law for the care and treatment of the poor and destitute, a large proportion of inmates who they acknowledge are not poor and destitute; and, will he further ascertain the amount paid to the credit of the general funds of the institution for each year during the last five years by those patients who are not poor and destitute?

*Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I have already stated that 90 per cent. of the patients relieved in this infirmary belong to the poorer classes who are treated gratuitously, and that the remaining 10 per cent. comprise persons who pay for their maintenance. The circumstances under which it was deemed necessary to admit patients of the latter class are detailed in a Resolution passed by the Board of Governors in August 1894, with the terms of which the hon. Member, as one of the Governors, is doubtless acquainted. As to the second paragraph, I would refer the hon. Member to the Annual Reports of the Infirmary, which contain the information he desires.

## COUNTY CARLOW GRAND JURY.

Mr. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that the cabin which was said to have been maliciously burned down on the lands of Lieutenant-Colonel John James Eustace was situated at the junction of three townlands, Moyle, Kellistown, and Kyleballyhue; that the Grand Jury of county Carlow, in fixing the special area over which the amount of compensation and costs granted to Lieutenant-Colonel Eustace were to be levied, exempted the townlands of Moyle and Kellistown, and levied the entire amount on Kyleballyhue and Castletown, also that certain members of the Grand Jury have a large interest in the townlands of Moyle and Kellistown, while the townland of Castletown is some distance away, and the owner of that property is not represented on the Grand Jury; and, if he will state what law or precedent justifies the Grand Jury when fixing the area over which the compensation was to be levied in exempting two of the adjoining townlands, Moyle and Kellistown, and fixing the whole amount on Castletown and Kyleballyhue?

*Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I have no information as to the position of the cottage that was maliciously destroyed, nor am I able to say that certain members of the Grand Jury have a large interest, or any interest, in the townlands exempted from the operation of the levy. The other two townlands adjoin one another, and the owner of Castletown is a lady who could not be represented on the Grand Jury. The area of the levy is entirely discretionary with the Grand Jury, under Section 135 of the Act 6 & 7 William IV., cap. 116.

Mr. ENGLEDOW: I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland if he will state upon what legal authority the county Carlow Grand Jury on the 13th instant passed a presentment for £12 to Mr. Charles H. Thorpe, solicitor, for preparing and registering the bonds of six barony constables appointed at the previous assizes, and pay £24 a year to that gentleman for that service; and whether the cost of preparing these bonds should be borne by the barony constables themselves; under what authority and by whose instructions Mr. Thorpe performed this work, and, whether Mr. Thorpe also charges the six barony constables £1 each for these bonds, in addition to the amount paid by the Grand Jury?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, (Londonderry, N.) : These bonds were prepared and registered by Mr. Thorpe by the authority and at the request of the Grand Jury, who passed a presentment for such sum as, I presume, they considered he was entitled to receive for his services. I do not know, and do not intend to inquire, whether Mr. Thorpe charged the barony constables any sum for the preparation of their bonds; and I have again to point out to the hon. Member, as I have frequently done before, that the Executive have no control over, or responsibility for, the action of the Grand Jury in the administration of their fiscal affairs.

## COUNTY COURTS (IRELAND).

MR. W. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the Lord Chancellor has yet arranged for the more frequent sittings of Irish County Courts; whether he is aware that for 13 years past this question has been under consideration; and, whether special facilities in this respect will be given to Irish towns as at present accorded in Great Britain?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: An Order in Council is now being prepared providing more frequent sittings for civil business by the Recorder of Dublin. This was the main topic pressed upon the attention of the Lord Chancellor by the important deputation he received, and, upon a close examination of the subject, it was not thought desirable at present to interfere with the general sittings of County Courts in Ireland, but the Lord Chancellor has his attention directed to the subject.

## BALLYMENA BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

MR. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland with reference to the case of a poor woman, the wife of a ploughman, who had been severely bitten by a mad dog near Ballymena, whether he is aware that the Ballymena Board of Guardians, upon application being made on the 7th December last, unanimously decided to send her for treatment to Mr. Patrick M'Govern, of Glangenlin, county Cavan, by whom she was restored to health; that Mr. M'Govern, after having been successful in his treatment, was obliged to sue the Guardians for payment of his bill; and that the Guardians took defence on the ground of illegality, or otherwise, and with what result; and, whether, considering the much higher per-centage of cures in the cases sent to Mr. M'Govern than in those sent to the Pasteur Institute in Paris, and considering the expense as well as the time and fatigue involved in sending such patients to Paris, he will make inquiry and arrange that the Boards of Guardians may pay Mr. M'Govern his bill when they send patients to him for treatment in such cases?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It is a fact that the Ballymena Guardians decided to send the wife of a labourer, who had been bitten by a dog pronounced to be mad, to Mr. M'Govern for treatment; but they were informed by the Local Government Board that any expenditure so incurred would be liable to disallowance by the auditor; and, subsequently, on application being made for payment of M'Govern's fee, it was pointed out to the Guardians that as M'Govern's was not a hospital within the meaning of Section 7 of the Act 25 & 26 Vict., cap. 83, the Guardians could not legally expend the rates in this manner, and that the Board had no power to sanction the payment as requested. M'Govern then sued the Guardians for recovery of the fee, but the case was dismissed at Quarter Sessions, on the ground that he was not a medical practitioner, and could not recover fees. The Local Government Board can only recognise as hospitals such institutions as are under the professional control and management of duly qualified medical practitioners, and in which the treatment is openly avowed and subject to proper investigation.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire whether the remedy of Mr. M'Govern, which is alleged to have been successful on so many occasions, has really the efficacy which is claimed for it?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It would be impossible for me to promise an inquiry into the efficacy of a remedy which is secret.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire whether it is the fact that the M'Governs have for centuries cured hydrophobia?

## WRECK OF STEAMSHIP "MORESBY."

Mr. J. J. SHEE (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the estimate of the local surveyor as to the probable cost of removing the wreck of the ship *Moresby* from the entrance to Dungarvan Harbour; whether the Dungarvan Harbour Commissioners have funds to, or is their credit sufficient to enable them to, undertake the task of removing the wreck; and, if not, what outlay are they at present in a position to incur; whether he is aware that the wreck constitutes a serious and increasing danger to life and property; and whether, in case the Dungarvan Harbour Commissioners have not sufficient funds to enable them to act, the Board of Trade will take steps in the matter?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. C. T. Ritchie, Croydon): The Dungarvan Harbour Commissioners have been advised that the cost of removing the wreck in question would be considerable, but no reliable estimate has been made. I am not in a position to express an authoritative opinion as to the credit of the Commissioners. The wreck is probably to some extent a source of danger, but the Board of Trade have no funds or authority to remove it, and they are unable to do more than press that it should be properly lighted.

## ROYAL CANAL COMPANY (IRELAND).

Mr. J. TUITE (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury—(1) is he aware that, under Sections 33 to 35 of 58 Geo. III., c. 35, a sum of £15,000 was deposited with the Irish Government by the old Royal Canal Company for the purposes of the obligations of the Company; (2) can he state whether that fund is still available; and, if so, will the Irish Board of Works, to whom the powers of the Directors of Inland Navigation in Ireland were transferred by 1 & 2 Will. IV, c. 33, now apply that sum, as authorised by Section 38 of the said Act of Geo. III., to the carrying out of whatever works may be necessary to put the canal in a proper navigable condition, the present owners, the Midland Great Western Railway Company of Ireland, as successors of the Royal Canal Company, having failed to do so, as proved by the Reports of the Inspectors of the Board of Trade; (3) can he state the purport of the quarterly Reports of the Midland Railway Company to the Lord Lieutenant as to the condition of the canal immediately before the inspections by Major General Hutchinson and Major Marindin; and (4) whether the representations of the Company were found to agree with the Reports of the Inspectors?

*Mr. HANBURY: The answer to the first paragraph is Yes. The Act of 1818, to which the hon. Member refers, provided for the creation of the Board of Control and for setting aside a Reserve Fund of £15,000, applicable by the Board (with the consent of the Irish Government) towards works required for the maintenance and preservation of the canal, the Company being required to recoup any such expenditure. By an Act of 1845 the canal was transferred to the Midland Great Western Railway, subject to the existing control of the Board of Control and the Irish Government. By an Act of 1848 the fund, which had increased from £15,000 to £17,538, was mulcted of £12,000, which was transferred to the Railway Company for the purpose of making the railway; but the remaining £5,538 stock is still available. The Railway Company's Reports, I am informed, deal in considerable detail with ordinary maintenance and state the works done in the period to which they refer, but do not deal with the general state of the canal. The Reports of the Board of Trade Inspectors show that they were not satisfied with the sufficiency of the maintenance of the canal. I am informed that the Railway Company report that they are carrying out the Board of Trade recommendations, and have bought a steam dredger. Meanwhile, the Board of Control have arranged to make an inspection of the canal at an early date.

## PURDYSBURN ASYLUM (BELFAST).

Mr. D. KILBRIDE (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the

Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the condemned hair mattresses and the furniture supplied by a Belfast contractor to Purdysburn Asylum, Belfast, whether he will give the names of the five firms who were invited to tender for the contract; and if he will state who suggested the names of the firms so invited, and why a public invitation for tenders was not published in the Belfast daily papers; whether he is aware that some of the largest mattress manufacturers and dealers in Belfast were not given any opportunity of competing as to tenders; and if he will make inquiry into the matter and, in the public interest, take steps to secure open competition for asylum contracts by having advertisements for tenders published in the papers?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The names of the five firms which were suggested by the Resident Medical Superintendent are the Bank Building Company, Hanna and Browne, Mayers, Robert Hanna, and Wright and Hunter. It was thought that, five firms of repute having been selected, satisfactory competition would be secured. The Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums have no information as to the second paragraph. I may add that tenders have been invited by public advertisement in the case of contracts for furniture required at the asylum, and that I am inquiring into the Question generally.

### DAIRY HERDS (VICTORIA).

MR. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been called to the diseased herds of Victoria and the dirty condition of many of the dairies there; whether he is aware that reports from the Dairymen's Association, the Perishable Products Committee, the Municipal Conference on Milk and Meat, and Dr. Springthorpe were some time ago submitted to the Premier of the Colony, and these reports all agree as to the disease among the herds, the want of ordinary cleanliness in many of the dairies, and the total want of inspection of the dairy herds of the Colony; and, whether, in the interest of the public health, he will make inquiry into the matter, with the view to take due precaution against the danger of receiving into this country butter from dirty dairies in Victoria?

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. WALTER LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): I have been in communication with the Agent General for Victoria on the subject of this Question, and I have received from him a memorandum in which he states that there is no such thing as the "diseased herds of Victoria," and that no such reports as are referred to have been made. I shall be happy to supply the hon. Member with a copy of this memorandum, and I propose to bring the subject under the notice of the Local Government Board with whom it rests to consider whether any further action in the interest of the public health is necessary and practicable.

### MOMBASA-UGANDA RAILWAY.

MR. R. W. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1) what legal authority the Committee charged with the construction of the Mombasa-Uganda Railway possess of acquiring by compulsion the lands through which the proposed railway will pass, in the event of the present owners of the land required for the railway refusing to sell by agreement; (2) under what local ordnance or other legal instrument it is proposed to confer upon the Railway Committee the right to levy tolls and otherwise manage and control the railway; and (3) whether the British Government, through the Committee, will assume towards employees, sub-contractors, and others concerned in the construction of this line the obligations usually undertaken by a duly incorporated Railway Company?

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. GEORGE CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): The Indian Land Acquisition Act of 1894, has been brought into force by notification from Her Majesty's Commissioner and Consul General for British East Africa. The second question will be considered whenever any portion of the railway is approaching completion. The obligations of the British Government towards those employed in the construction of this line will be generally similar to those assumed by the Government of India in relation to the execution of public works.

Mr. **PERKS** asked whether there was a power of applying the Indian Act to any conquered territory?

*Mr. **CURZON** said the Indian Act was applied in accordance with a Zanzibar Order in Council to British subjects and British Indian subjects.

Mr. **PERKS** desired to know whether the people along the route of the Uganda Railway were British subjects?

*Mr. **CURZON** said the route of the railway was 650 miles long, and he did not know to what portion the hon. Gentleman referred. But if the hon. Member was drawing a distinction between the ten-miles strip which had previously been under the Sultan of Zanzibar, and the land in the interior, the answer to his question was that in regard to any subjects of the Sultan in the ten-miles strip powers of dealing with them had been obtained from the Zanzibar Government, so that whether the persons alluded to were subjects of the Sultan of Zanzibar or were the persons whom he had described, the cases were alike met.

## TOWNS IMPROVEMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1854 (NEWBRIDGE).

Mr. **M. J. MINCH** (Kildare, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a written application, dated 23rd June, was sent to the Under Secretary by Mr. W. Grove White, solicitor, on behalf of the Grand Jury of the county Kildare, asking for a copy of a resolution of the inhabitants of Newbridge, adopting the provisions of the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854; will he explain on what grounds the Under Secretary refused to supply a copy, but stated that it could be produced in any court on subpœna, and afterwards, on the 9th July, wrote to Mr. White refusing an inspection of the documents; and whether, considering that the learned Queen's Counsel who acts for the Grand Jury requires to peruse this resolution for the purpose of advising them as to their powers, in the interests of the inhabitants of Newbridge, he will make inquiry, and direct a copy of the resolution to be supplied or an inspection to be granted?

The **ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND**: It is the invariable practice of the Irish Executive not to furnish copies of official documents to private individuals, or to the officials of public bodies, or permit inspection of such documents by them, but to produce them in any court of justice under summons or subpœna, where this course can be followed without injury to the public service. Mr. White was informed that this practice would be followed in this particular case, and I see no reason to depart from it. It may, however, serve the purpose of the hon. Member to inform him that the resolution adopted all the sections of the Act, save those relating to the supply of water and to the borrowing of money.

## LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL (PURCHASE CLAUSES.)

Sir **THOMAS ESMONDE** (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if the provisions relating to land purchase of the Irish Land Bill now before Parliament will apply in the case of pending sales where agreements have been lodged with the Land Commission prior to the passing of this Bill?

*Mr. **GERALD BALFOUR**: Clauses 18, 21, 22, and 23 are intended to apply in pending cases. The applicability of Clauses 25 to 29 is questionable, but it is intended to remove all doubts on the matter at a future stage of the Bill.

## SUPPLY OF SEAMEN.

Colonel **DENNY** (Kilmarnock Burghs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether he intends to take any action, as recommended by the Manning Committee, in relation to granting licences for supplying seamen through any qualified association and corporations whose members are individually entitled to engage seamen?

Mr. **RITCHIE**: I have not had an opportunity of adequately studying the recommendation of the Manning Committee, but, as regards such of those recommendations as need legislation, I regret not to be in a position to hold out any hope of being able to deal with them at present.

### WADELAI.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether there is any foundation for the statement that French officers have recently visited Wadelai, or any part of the territory leased by Great Britain to the Sovereign of the Congo State, and not renounced by the latter at the time of his renunciation of the remainder of the leased sphere?

*MR. CURZON: We have no information in support of the statement; and it is conceivable that Wadelai may be a misprint for Waday.

### METROPOLITAN POLICE (SUMMER CLOTHING).

SIR HENRY HAVELOCK-ALLAN (Durham, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether, in consequence of the extreme heat of the weather, he will take into consideration the advisability of allowing the London police to wear temporarily a white cover to their helmets, and of issuing to them a serge frock or other light and cool dress, better adapted for the performance of their duties in an almost tropical temperature than their present heavy tunic, as is done in many boroughs in England and in New York and other cities in America?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): I have already stated that this question of allowing the London police to wear a cooler summer dress is engaging my attention, and though I cannot admit that the circumstances in the metropolis are altogether similar to those in the counties, by some of which the lighter clothing has been adopted, much less to those in the American cities to which the hon. Member alludes, I am making inquiries and considering whether it will be possible for me to do anything in the direction which the hon. Member and other Members of this House desire.

### DARWEN MOOR PROVISIONAL ORDER.

Mr. A. HOPKINSON (Wilts, Cricklade): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether, having regard to the delay and expense of the procedure, and the obstacles caused by the absolute veto of the Lord of the Manor, which in the recent case of the Darwen Moor Provisional Order, and in other cases have been proved to exist under the existing law, the Government will next Session introduce a Bill to amend the law in order to facilitate the regulation of commons?

*MR. LONG: As my hon. Friend is probably aware, the difficulties which arose in the Darwen Moor case were successfully surmounted under the law as it stands; and in any case I am afraid it would not be possible for me at the present time to enter into any engagement with regard to legislation next Session on the subject to which he refers.

### ENLISTMENT.

MR. G. KEMP (Lancashire, Heywood): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether a soldier can be retained in the Service if he enlists when under the required age, and the authorities have been informed of the fact before he reaches the regulation age?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): A soldier who was enlisted as a result of a false statement of age cannot claim his discharge as a right until the term for which he enlisted has expired; but, in practice, a soldier so enlisted when under 17 years of age is discharged as a matter of course; and if between 17 and 18 years of age when enlisted, the General Officer Commanding can discharge him if he thinks it desirable.

### NAVAL RESERVE.

MR. R. G. WEBSTER (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, whether he would be willing to consider the advisability of further augmenting the reserve of sailors and marines for Her Majesty's Fleet by recruiting each year 5,000 men for five years' service in the Fleet and 15 years in the Reserve, as suggested by Lord Charles Beresford in a speech recently delivered to the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce;

and, whether, in view of the large number of ships at present building, he will consider the necessity of adding these men to the number of long service men on the strength of the Navy.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. G. J. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): In reply to my hon. Friend, I have to state that I am not prepared to proceed on the lines suggested in the first paragraph of the Question. With regard to reserves of soldiers and marines, nothing has happened since I submitted the Navy Estimates in March to induce me to depart in either direction from that steady, continuous, proportionate increase in the number of men which is rendered necessary by the expansion of the Fleet. I asked the House for an increase of about 5,000 men when I submitted my last Estimate. I must decline to anticipate the statement which I shall have to make next year as to the further increase which will be required.

### ARMY PENSIONS (THOMAS BRYSON).

MR. JASPER TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office, whether further inquiries have been made by the Chelsea Commissioners into the case of Thomas Bryson, a pensioner, residing at Newtowngore, county Leitrim, who is bedridden owing to diseases which he contracted as an engineer on active service; and, whether it is intended to increase the small allowance of 1s. per day of which he is at present in receipt?

MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS: Thomas Bryson served for less than six years in the Army. He was discharged in 1883 on account of chronic rheumatism incurred during his active service. At the time of his discharge he was granted a pension of 7d. a day, which was all his service entitled him to; but subsequently, in consideration of his helpless condition, the pension was raised to a shilling a day. The Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital, having carefully considered all the evidence produced, are unable to recommend any further increase of pension.

### DRAINAGE CHARGES (IRELAND).

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, (1) whether he is aware that numerous seizures have been recently made on occupiers in the neighbourhood of the River Suck, in Roscommon and Galway, for drainage charges, from the expenditure of which they allege they received no benefit; and (2), whether, owing to the widespread complaints as to the wasteful proceedings of the Suck Drainage Board, he will direct a public inquiry into the entire matter, with a view to devising a remedy for these public grievances.

*MR. HANBURY: In all cases where decrees for non-payment of the rent-charge payable under the award in the River Suck Drainage District have been obtained and the amount not paid, the decrees have been placed in the Sheriff's hands to realise, which he has succeeded in doing in a number of cases. The Board of Works are not aware of any such complaints against the present Drainage Board as are mentioned in the second paragraph, or of the necessity for any inquiry. If the present members of the Drainage Board, who have been elected by the proprietors and occupiers, do not give satisfaction to the majority of their constituents, these have the remedy in their own hands, as they can turn out the present Board and elect their own nominees in January next.

### CONSTABULARY REGULATIONS (IRELAND).

MR. CLANCY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that at the Petty Sessions held in Edenderry, King's County, on the 15th instant, charges were preferred against several persons by constables who were unable to attend in court to prosecute them; that in their absence the Head Constable of the district took upon himself the duty of acting as complainant, calling and examining witnesses; and, whether such a practice is sanctioned by the Constabulary Regulations; and, if not, what notice he intends taking in the matter?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am consulting the Law Officers in reference to this question, and will thank the hon. and learned Gentleman to defer it until to-morrow.

### OMAGH ASSIZES (CHARGE OF MURDER).

Mr. MURNAGHAN: I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland, whether it has been brought to his notice that two youths, brothers, named Maguire, on trial for murder at the Omagh Assizes, have been twice daily escorted on foot, through the public streets, from the gaol to the courthouse, with large crowds of people collected on each side of the way to witness the procession; has it been the custom heretofore for the authorities at Omagh to convey prisoners charged with serious offences from the prison to the courthouse in a covered vehicle; and, what special reason, if any existed in this case, for a departure from that practice?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND: There is no foundation whatever for the statement that the prisoners referred to were marched through the streets to the gaol or courthouse. They were conveyed on each occasion in the prison van, a covered conveyance, in accordance with the usual practice.

### DUBLIN AND LONDON MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware of the strong feeling of dissatisfaction existing in Ireland respecting the proposed changes in the time table of the Dublin and London mail service; whether, considering that the Dublin Steam Packet Company have supplied boats that can easily save half an hour across channel on all four services, he will see that the London and North Western Railway Company will save, as it was understood they would, half an hour on the land part of the journey on all the services; whether he is aware that it would be a great convenience to passengers from either side, and no postal disadvantage, to make the hours of departure from Euston and Kingstown an hour later, with the exception of the 8.20 p.m. leaving Euston; whether he is aware that to bring passengers into Euston at 5.50 a.m. would be a grievance without any postal advantage; and, whether he will make inquiry, and consult the convenience of the people in Dublin and the provinces before finally making arrangements?

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will give an undertaking that the proposed arrangement for the new postal service between Ireland and England will not be put in force without an opportunity being given for discussing the same in Parliament next Session.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, with reference to the proposed changes in the mail service between Dublin and London, whether he will insist on the saving of an hour on all the four services between Euston and Kingstown; whether he will arrange that the time so saved will be utilised by making the hour of leaving one hour later in all the mail services except the night train from Euston; and, whether he will embrace the opportunity for providing third class accommodation for passengers on the mail trains between Holyhead and Euston?

*Mr. HANBURY: The Postmaster General is aware that the proposed changes in the time table of the London and Dublin mail service do not meet with unanimous acceptance in Ireland. Whilst provision has been made in the new contract with the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company that the sea passage between Holyhead and Kingstown shall be performed half an hour quicker than at present on all the four daily services, the acceleration of half an hour on land will be confined to the two services in connection with the night mail. Neither the Postmaster General nor his predecessors ever contemplated an acceleration of the day mail trains, which would be of no postal importance, and which would be attended with very considerable additional expense. It might be a convenience to passengers if the departure of three of the mail trains were made an hour later as suggested, but this could not be done without postal disadvantage in every case. In regard to the up-night mail, which is specially mentioned by the hon. Member for South Down, an arrival at Euston at 5.50 a.m. instead of at 6.15 a.m. would be a distinct advantage to the postal service in London, and a later running of the train throughout from Holyhead would result in the failure of an important connection *via* Chester and Warrington with the mail to the north by the 10 p.m. train from Euston. As stated on previous occasions, the railway company cannot see their way to provide third-class accommodation for passengers in the mail trains between London and Holyhead. It would not be possible to carry out the accelerated services between Ireland and England on 1st April next, if the suggestion of the hon. Member for West Kerry were adopted and the arrangements were to be left undecided till next Session. The time table framed for the service between London and Dublin, which has recently been made public, appears to the Postmaster General the only table compatible with all the conditions of the problem, and on the basis of this table, it is proposed to proceed with the necessary negotiations for carrying on the acceleration of the night mail into the Irish provinces.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (MINING INSTRUCTION).

MR. ALFRED THOMAS (Glamorgan, E.): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education, whether candidates from mining districts may receive marks for certificates they hold in agriculture but not for those in mining at the Queen's Scholarship Examination; and, if so, whether, in order to promote the teaching of the principles of mining to the children in elementary schools, which would tend to lessen the number of accidents in mines, he would consider the propriety of giving the same credit to teachers for their knowledge of mining as of agriculture?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): The answer to the first paragraph of the Question is in the affirmative. The Committee of Council will consider the suggestions of the hon. Member; but they doubt the possibility of teaching the principles of mining as an elementary school subject.

## LISTOWEL UNION (COUNTY KERRY).

COLONEL WARING (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether a petition, signed by 258 ratepayers of the Union of Listowel, County Kerry, which was forwarded to the Local Goverment Board of Ireland on the 22nd of April 1896, praying for the appointment of paid guardians to that Union on the ground of the increase in the expenditure for outdoor relief which has risen from £8 in 1880 to £3,000 in 1895, has been received; and, what steps he intends to take in the matter?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The petition referred to has been received. There is no doubt the Listowel Guardians have been lavish in the administration of outdoor relief in recent years, though, speaking generally, they discharge their duties efficiently. The amount expended on outdoor relief has been somewhat reduced in the last two years, and a strong remonstrance was addressed to the Guardians at a recent audit which, it is hoped, will have the effect of still further curtailing this item of expense without suffering to the poor. The ratepayers will of course have a remedy in their own hands at the annual election of Guardians; but the matter will not be lost sight of by the Local Government Board, and the next report of their auditor will be carefully considered.

## JUDICIAL RENT SCHEDULE (IRELAND).

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if, before the Report stage of the Irish Land Bill, he will circulate, for the information of Members, copies of the Schedule (commonly known as the Pink Schedule) used by the Land Commission in fixing judicial rents?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The copy of the Pink Schedule as now used by the Land Commission will be found on page 675 of the Appendix to the Report from the Select Committee on the Lands Act (Ireland), 1894. Since the issue of the Report the Assistant Commissioners have been required to set out, opposite paragraph 14, the capital value of any improvements found to be the property of the tenant, and the annual deduction made in respect thereof. I have caused a number of copies of the Pink Schedule to be placed in the library for the convenience of hon Members.

## CORK ASSIZES (CHARGE OF PERJURY.)

MR. E. CREAN (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the observations of Mr. Justice Holmes, in the case of perjury against Annie Barrett at the recent Cork Assizes, when it appeared that Barrett, in order to get her children into an industrial school, consulted the Head Constable at Queenstown; whether he is aware that the Head Constable told her that the children would have to be caught begging and followed them out of the barrack and gave the children some coppers, and then brought her before the petty sessions for begging; that the judge characterised the whole thing as collusion and fraud on the Act of Parliament, and directed the jury to acquit the woman as it was not Annie Barrett but somebody else who was to blame; and, whether a constabulary inquiry has been or will be held into the conduct of the Head Constable?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The facts of this case appear to be stated with substantial accuracy. It is not proposed to hold a Constabulary Court of Inquiry, as the facts are not in dispute, but the conduct of the Head Constable is now engaging consideration.

## DESTRUCTION OF MAIL VAN (GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY, IRELAND.)

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury as representing the Postmaster General, has any Return yet been furnished of the number and value of the postal parcels destroyed by the late burning of a mail van on the Great Northern Railway, Ireland; how many claims have been made in regard to those destroyed parcels; what compensation has been allowed; and, has the cost been borne by the Post Office or by the Railway Company?

*MR. HANBURY: No return of the number and value of the postal packets destroyed has yet been furnished, and it will be some time before the full particulars are known. The number of claims which up to the present has been made in respect of the destroyed parcels is 45. The claims are being investigated, and the amount of compensation which has already been paid is £5. The cost, so far, has been borne by the Post Office.

## MAJOR LOTHAIRE.

MR. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether an appeal is take place, and, if so, when, with reference to the trial of Major Lothaire for the murder of Mr. Stokes; whether such appeal will include an Inquiry as to the right to seize and confiscate Mr. Stokes' property; whether, in the event of an appeal, Her Majesty's Government will arrange to have adequate professional representation at the hearing; and, if no decision as to the course of action has been arrived at, when Her Majesty's Government expect to be able to give information?

*MR. CURZON: An appeal has been made, and the hearing has been fixed for the 3rd of August. As the Government of the Congo Free State is the appellant, the conduct of the appeal will be in the hands of its representatives before the Court. Her Majesty's Government must leave to that Government the entire responsibility for seeing that the investigation into the case and all material circumstances connected with it is complete. Her Majesty's Government have themselves no *locus standi* at the hearing of the appeal, any more than they had at the original trial at Boma. The question of Stokes' property did not come before the latter, and therefore is not involved in the appeal. Her Majesty's Government, of course, reserve to themselves the right of subsequently making any diplomatic representations to the Government of the Congo State, which the circumstances may seem to call for.

## WATER SUPPLY (ESSENDON, HERTS).

*MR. C. J. MONK (Gloucester): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether he is aware that, owing to the excessive drought, the wells in Essendon, in the county of Hertford, from which the inhabitants derive their sole supply of water, are becoming dry; and, whether he will take immediate steps to consider the Report of

Colonel Hasted, the Government Inspector, respecting the scheme for providing an adequate supply of pure water for the village of Essendon, which has been before the Board for several months past?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I do not find that any communication has been received as to the effect of the present drought on the wells in Essendon, but I have no doubt as to the necessity of an improved water supply for the place. The Report of Colonel Hasted, the Board's Inspector, after his Inquiry has been received within the last few days. The matter will receive the Board's immediate attention, and a communication will be addressed to the authority without delay. As my hon. Friend is probably aware, the proposals of the authority have met with some opposition.

## ASSISTANT LAND COMMISSIONERS (IRELAND).

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland, whether, in view of the additional work created by the new applications under the Irish Land Act, he would recommend the suspension of the 65 Rule in the case of Sub-Commissioners; and, is it the advice of the English Law Officers that the Treasury have taken as to the applicability of the 65 Rule to Sub-Commissioners?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Assistant Commissioners are permanent civil servants of the Crown, and I have no power to recommend in their favour the suspension of the Order in Council fixing an age for the compulsory retirement of all permanent civil servants. The second Question is obviously one that should be addressed to the Treasury.

## WRECK OF STEAMSHIP "DRUMMOND CASTLE."

MR. JAMES ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether, in view of the great public interest that is taken both in this country and South Africa in the recent Board of Trade Inquiry into the loss of the *Drummond Castle*, he will direct that the shorthand writer's notes, taken at the Inquiry and presented to the Court, be printed and circulated to the Members of this House?

MR. RITCHIE: The shorthand writer's notes of evidence taken at the Inquiry into the loss of the *Drummond Castle* are very voluminous, and could not be printed and circulated except at considerable expense, which, as at present advised, I am not prepared to authorise.

## RAILWAY SPEED.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the verdict of the jury on the railway accident at Preston, attributing it to the excessive speed at which the train was travelling, and allowing that the drivers were not entirely at fault, because they had to travel over too great a distance in a given time: and, whether he will issue a circular to the railway companies warning them against the practice of racing?

MR. RITCHIE: An Inspecting Officer of the Board of Trade has been engaged in holding an inquiry into the causes of the Preston accident, and when I receive his report I will determine what action, if any, should be taken. In coming to a conclusion, I shall. of course, have due regard to the finding of the coroner's jury.

## DOG MUZZLING.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, in view of the increase of rabies in London and the country, the Government, in the interest of and protection for the public will consider the advisability of adopting the system prevailing in France, Germany, and other continental countries of enforcing the muzzling order all the year round, more especially as a new humane muzzle has been invented which affords a dog the same freedom and comfort as though it were practically unmuzzled?

*MR. LONG: I am happy to say that the number of cases of rabies reported during the present year shows a distinct improvement as compared with the corresponding period of 1895, but the disease is still at a much higher point than it has ever been since it was first brought within the scope of the Diseases of Animals Acts, and I am afraid that it will give us much cause for anxiety for some time to come. In these circumstances it must be very doubtful whether the existing system under which the imposition of muzzling regulations is practically left to the local authorities is at all a satisfactory one, and I shall be glad to keep the suggestion of my hon. Friend in view, and to give it full consideration when I receive the report of the Departmental Committee, which is now taking evidence as to the working of the dog laws generally.

## LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS (WALES).

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he is aware that in the counties of Cardigan, Carmarthen, Glamorgan, Merioneth, Montgomery, Pembroke, and Radnor, no property qualification is required for Commissioners of Land Tax, whereas in the other Welsh counties and in England a qualification of £100 is requisite; and whether he will take the necessary steps to abolish the property qualification in the counties of Anglesey, Brecknock, Carnarvon, Denbigh, and Flint, and in the English counties?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: I am aware that in the counties first named by the hon. Member no property qualification is required for Commissioners of Land Tax. There seems to be no record of the reasons which led to an exception being made in these cases from the general rule that a qualification of £100 a year in land is required. I do not propose to alter that rule.

## FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1893, (ANALYSES).

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, during the two years in which the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1893, has been in operation in nine counties, only one analysis has been made, and in 29 counties there have been no analyses; and what steps he proposes to take to prevent the Act from being a dead letter in the counties referred to?

*Mr. LONG: The facts are as stated in the Question. Since the passing of the Act we have addressed various circular letters to local authorities calling attention to its provisions, and making various suggestions with regard to its administration. We have also issued many thousand copies of a leaflet explanatory of the procedure to be adopted by buyers who wish to put the Act into force. I shall be happy to consider any further suggestions which may be made to me by which the Act can be made known, but it must rest with the buyers themselves to determine whether they will avail themselves of the machinery for sampling and analysis supplied by the Act.

## EAST LONDON WATER COMPANY.

Mr. W. R. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that in some portions of the district served by the East London Water Company there was no water available for flushing closets at 9.30 in the morning yesterday (Wednesday) and that at the same time water was being freely used for watering the roads; and, whether he is in a position to state whether any, and, if so, what immediate steps can be taken to insure a sufficient water supply to houses in East London for sanitary purposes?

Mr. CHAPLIN: I have learnt with much regret that the East London Waterworks Company have found it necessary to restrict the supply of water to six hours a day in consequence of the extreme drought, and I have no reason to doubt the statement that in some portions of the district served by the company there was no water supply available at 9.30 in the morning yesterday. With regard to the statement that water, notwithstanding, was being used for watering the roads, I may say that on Tuesday I communicated with the company and with the several local authorities within the limits of supply by the company, stating that the Local Government Board considered that as far as possible the supply of water for street watering should be discontinued in the district of the company so long as the present drought continued, and expressing the Board's hope that the local authorities would concur in the adoption of this course. As I previously stated, I communicated with the East London Company and the New River Company, suggesting an arrangement by which assistance as regards the supply of water should be obtained from the latter company. Negotiations, I understand, are now proceeding, and I am inquiring what has been done in this matter. I am also urging upon the company the importance of at once fixing standpipes to such of the mains as are constantly charged with the view of diminishing the serious inconvenience arising from the direct supply to houses being limited to six hours a day. The company are pressing upon consumers the extreme importance of all waste being avoided, and that the use of water for gardens and other similar purposes should be discontinued, and from the information which I have received I am convinced of the necessity of husbanding the supply as far as possible.

### ORDNANCE FACTORIES VOTE.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, considering the importance of the Ordnance Factories Vote, he will, for the convenience of the large number of Members interested, arrange to take it first upon the day which he has fixed, namely, 7th August.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I cannot give the hon. Member a promise that the Vote will be put first on August 7th; but I will endeavour as far as I can to arrange to take the Vote for the general convenience of Members.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.) asked what the business for next week would be after the termination of the Committee on the Irish Land Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY recognised the right of the right hon. Gentleman to ask the question, but he frankly told him the only doubt he had. There was first the Scotch Rating Bill, but whether that should not be put off till Tuesday and whether they should not take the Uganda Railway Bill on Monday and some other smaller Bills was doubtful. If the right hon. Gentleman would put a question to-morrow he should give him a definite answer then.

SIR W. HARCOURT said it was understood that the Coal Mines Bill would be taken on Monday. So many people were interested in it that he hoped there would be an opportnnity of discussing it.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that Bill should be taken on Monday in any case.

In reply to Mr. GIBSON BOWLES,

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said he wished he was able to fix a day for the Finance Bill, but he was not.

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## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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### LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

[Progress 22nd July.]

Clause 35,—

#### APPEALS UNDER LAND PURCHASE ACT.

Any person aggrieved by the order of a Land Commissioner acting alone in carrying the Land Purchase Acts as amended by this Act into effect, may, if such Commissioner was not a Judicial Commissioner and the question is one of law, require the case to be reheard by a Judicial Commissioner, and in any other case may require the question to be reconsidered by a Judicial Commissioner and two other Commissioners; provided that if the Judicial Commissioner thinks it desirable the case should be re-heard by those three Commissioners.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) suggested that, as the clause was quite unnecessary, it should be negatived. This, like other clauses in the Bill, had been drafted by gentlemen of the Land Commission who did not know what they were about.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) also condemned the clause as quite uncalled for, unless it was connected with Mr. Justice Ross.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) explained the difference between the clause and the 29th section of the Act of 1891. The latter provided that the appeal, if on a question of law, should be to the Judicial Commission; and if on any other question, to three Commissioners, one of whom should be the Judicial Commissioner, one a Commissioner under the Land Purchase Act of 1885, and one a Commissioner under the Act of 1881. There was no such qualification in the present clause, which enacted that the tribunal should be the Judicial Commissioner and two other Commissioners.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that until the passing of the Land Purchase Act of 1891, the Land Commission consisted of two watertight compartments—the Purchase Department and the Fair Rent Department. In 1891 the Government abolished that distinction. The Irish Members protested, and a compromise was arrived at which provided that the appeal should not be to the Commissioners miscellaneously, but should be to a tribunal which should, at any rate, have some part of the Land Purchase element of the Commission upon it. This clause was an insidious attempt on the part of the Land Commission to go behind the compromise of 1891.

MR. DILLON said that since the passing of the Act of 1891 there was a tendency at headquarters to amalgamate, rearrange, and even to rig the Land Commission.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) said the clause was really consequential on Clause 17, under which rules might be made enabling the Land Judge to act as an additional Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission in any appeal or rehearing under the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act. If the question was to be raised at all, it had better be raised on the Report of Clause 17 itself.

MR. DILLON protested against the introduction of Mr. Justice Ross. It was distinctly stated that he was not to occupy the position of an ordinary Land Commissioner, but was to be brought on in special circumstances, and if the object of the clause was to confer on Mr. Justice Ross the right so fully exercised by the present Land Commissioners to review the decision of the Purchase Commissioners, it was an extension of the law which ought to be strongly opposed. The two bodies of Commissioners had totally separate duties—one had to fix fair rents, the other had to see that the Treasury did not advance too much for the security offered. He protested against the introduction of Mr. Justice Ross for the purpose of interfering with this safeguard of the Treasury, and indirectly of the tenants, because it sometimes relieved them of the exorbitant prices which they agreed to pay. Mr. Justice Ross's duty would be to see that the Treasury did not advance too much money, but as a Land Judge his duty would be to see that his clients got the utmost price for their land.

MR. T. M. HEALY could not agree with the view taken by the last speaker with regard to the position of Mr. Justice Ross. He dubbed the clause the "Anti-Murrough O'Brien clause." Under the old Act it was essential, when there was an appeal, that the tribunal should include one Commissioner appointed under the Act of 1885. They could not always have Mr. Lynch, who was a strong landlord's advocate, and accordingly Mr. Murrough O'Brien, who was appointed by the Liberal Government, was bound sometimes to be called in. But under this clause there would be no need to call in Mr. Murrough O'Brien, because they could always call in Mr. Wrench, Mr. Fitzgerald, or Mr. Lynch. Thus they would have a packed jury. He had not the slightest objection to Mr. Justice Ross on a question of law. He did not see that it mattered whether the appeal, then, was to Mr. Justice Ross or to Confucius. But when the appeal was on the question of value it was wholly different, and it was in this connection that the clause in the Act of 1891 was of value. If the object of this clause was to bring in Mr. Justice Ross, then he contended that that was already done under Clause 17. If Mr. Justice Ross were brought in to deal with questions of law he should have no objection to that, but if it was a question of value, he protested that this exclusion of the Commissioners appointed under the Act of 1885 was a matter of which they must take notice.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR, interposing, said it would probably meet the objection of the hon. and learned Gentleman if he consented to insert the words "to be determined by rota."

MR. T. M. HEALY: Who is to fix the rota? If the rota were to be decided by the Commissioners there would, perhaps, be no objection to that; but why was the bargain made in 1891 gone behind, and gone behind, apparently, without the knowledge of the Government? When a Parliamentary bargain was made it ought to be carried out, and the rota should be a rota in which the tenants had confidence.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he did not think that any attempt had been made, as the hon. Gentleman suggested, to go behind the bargain of 1891; but, even though a Parliamentary bargain was made, it was open to suggest openly to the House that a change should be made. In this particular case, however, the Government had no desire to go behind the bargain come to in 1891, and therefore he would suggest that words be inserted providing that one of the Commissioners must be a Commissioner appointed under the Act of 1885.

MR. DILLON suggested that it would be better to leave the law as it now stood. If the object of including this clause was to enable Mr. Justice Ross to take part in appeals on value, that was, in his view, a great objection to the clause, and he would still press the Government to state for what purpose the clause was inserted.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the clause was necessary in order to enable the Land Judge to sit on appeals. Unless the clause was passed as a corollary to Clause 17, it would be impossible for him to do so. The Committee had already decided that the Land Judge should be enabled to sit as an additional Judicial Commissioner.

MR. DILLON asked what was the good of this clause, if the Committee had already decided that? He thought the object of the clause, as stated by the right hon. Gentleman, was a very unfortunate one.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that if the question of Mr. Justice Ross was to be raised, it ought to be raised hereafter on the Report stage of Clause 17. He thought his right hon. Friend had met hon. Gentlemen opposite very fairly by proposing words which would have the effect of causing the bargain of 1891 to be adhered to.

MR. MAURICE HEALY contended that the clause was absolutely unnecessary if the right hon. Gentleman was willing that the law should stand as it was now. All that was necessary to bring about the object of the Government had already been done under Clause 17.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that the Act of 1891 abolished the distinction between Purchase Commissioners and Land Commissioners, and as the law stood at present under the Act of 1891 the Judicial Commissioner was the Commissioner named in that Act or his successor. Section 17 of this Bill enabled Mr. Justice Ross to do certain duties of the Judicial Commissioner, but it did not identify him with the Commissioner under the Act of 1891, and therefore this clause was necessary.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that he accepted the statement of the First Lord of the Treasury. He thought he had met them very fairly. He suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should withdraw his Motion that the clause stand part of the Bill, in order that the words he proposed might be inserted.

MR. DILLON said he very strongly objected to the object of the clause as it had been stated by the Government.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY thought it would not be in order now to withdraw the Motion that the clause stand part of the Bill, and therefore the House must come to a decision on the clause; but he would undertake that the Amendment should be made on Report.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) moved to omit Sub-section (4). The hon. and learned Gentleman said that, if the Board bought an estate with a number of small tenants upon it, the latter would by this sub-section be deprived of their right to go into Court and have a fair rent fixed. Small tenants were the very class to whom the right should not be denied.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the Congested Districts Board existed for philanthropic purposes. It purchased estates with the direct intention of benefiting the tenants on those estates, and, as the Land Act of 1881 was passed to prevent undue oppression of the tenants by the landlords, it seemed absurd to suppose that this philanthropic body should be suspected of placing upon the tenants a higher rent than they could afford to pay. If the Board was so little to be trusted with the interests of the tenant, it was hardly worth while that it should exist at all.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL said that, from what he knew of Irish tenants, he thought they would rather pay a small rent than trust to the philanthropy of any body, whether the Congested Districts Board or another. [*Nationalist cheers.*] Any Board might have the best intentions, but the tenants should have some guarantee beyond mere philanthropic intentions before they were deprived of their rights.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said this was a watertight clause in the interests of the Treasury. The Congested Districts Board might purchase from a private owner a certain estate, but he could not prevent tenants coming into Court because Parliament in its wisdom said, "We will not allow you to have these contracts with your tenants. We will interfere and fix a fair rent, and give every man the right to have a fair rent." Why should not this apply to the State? [*Nationalist cheers.*] If it was right in the one it was right in the other. He detected the finger of the Treasury in the clause. ["Hear, hear!"] He did not see why, when the State became the proprietor of land, its tenants should not have a fair rent fixed as well as the tenants of private owners.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said the right of the tenant to apply to the Court to fix a fair rent for him was a vested right conferred upon him by statute, and, because thousands of tenants in Ireland might not have exercised their right, that did not justify the Committee by a stroke of the pen in depriving them of it. He considered it an appalling proposal. He reminded the Committee that philanthropic boards acted through their officers, and backed them up through thick and thin, and it would be in the power of these officers to deprive the tenants of the right that had been given them by Act of Parliament.

*Mr. Serjeant Hemphill.*

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that, as time was precious, he would consent to the omission of the sub-section.

MR. T. M. HEALY remarked that, if time were precious so were the rights of the tenants under the Congested Districts Board.

On the Question, "That Clause 36, as amended, stand part of the Bill,"

MR. DILLON hoped that next Session the Government would introduce a Bill to increase the powers of the Congested Districts Board in regard to the development of fisheries and the enlargement of holdings in the West of Ireland. There was a growing feeling that these were the chief agencies by which the people in the western districts of Ireland could be lifted out of the slough of terrible poverty in which they existed.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 37,—

SALES BY CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD OF SMALL HOLDINGS OTHERWISE THAN UNDER LAND PURCHASE ACTS.

(1.) The Congested Districts Board may sell land to a tenant of a small holding for the price agreed upon, and credit the purchaser with the whole or any part of the purchase money, and such purchase money shall be secured to the satisfaction of the Board, and be payable by such annuity, payable half-yearly, and calculated at such rate of interest, as may be agreed on.

(2.) For carrying such sale into effect the Trustees of the Congested Districts Board may convey the land to the purchaser charged with the said annuity; but the conveyance shall not operate to convert the interest of the purchaser in the holding into real estate.

(3.) The particulars of any such conveyance may be communicated to the Land Commission, and thereafter they shall issue half-yearly applications for payment of the half-yearly instalments of the annuity charged on the holding, and shall credit or pay to the Congested Districts Board all sums received by the Commission in respect thereof, and shall furnish to the Board particulars of all instalments for which they issue applications under this section, showing which have and which have not been paid.

(4.) The Trustees of the Congested Districts Board shall have, for the recovery of any such instalments unpaid, the same remedies as the Land Commission have for the recovery of unpaid instalments of an annuity under the Land Purchase Acts.

(5.) Holdings purchased under this section, while subject to any annuity for the payment of purchase money, shall not be subject to the provisions of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, but shall be subject to all the provisions of the Land Purchase Acts respecting a holding subject to an annuity under those acts; and the power under those provisions to require a holding to be sold when subdivided by reason of the death of the proprietor, may be exercised within *twelve months* after the subdivision becomes known to the Congested Districts Board, notwithstanding that it is more than twelve months after the death.

(6.) Whenever, upon the amalgamation of small holdings, part of the amalgamated holding is subject to an annuity under this section, and the amalgamated holding is not a small holding, the Congested Districts Board may agree with the occupier of such amalgamated holding for the purchase by him of that holding under the Land Purchase Acts, and the Land Commission may sanction the agreement and make an advance as if such occupier was in occupation of the whole of such holding under a contract of tenancy.

(7.) On such last-mentioned advance being made by the Land Commission, the balance of the principal of the purchase money payable by the annuity under this section shall be treated as repaid to the Board out of the advance, and the holding shall be discharged from all liability in respect of the said annuity.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 38,—

### RULES FOR PART OF ACT.

Rules for carrying into effect this part of this Act may be made by the Lord Lieutenant after communication with the Land Commission and the Congested Districts Board.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 39,—

### EVICTED TENANTS.—RE-ENACTMENT, WITH MODIFICATIONS, OF 54 & 55 VICT. C. 48. S. 13.

Section thirteen of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, is hereby re-enacted, and shall have effect with the modifications following:—

(*a*) *Twelve months* of the commencement of this Act shall be substituted for six months of the passing of this Act;

(*b*) The section shall not extend to a holding the tenancy of which has been determined since the fifth day of August one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.) moved to omit Sub-section (*b*). He found that 5,000 tenants had been evicted since the date mentioned, and it would seriously affect the settlement of this difficult question if those tenants were excluded from the operation of the clause.

MR. DILLON thought the landlords would be wise in their own interest to accept the Amendment.

MR. EDWARD CARSON (Dublin University:) We do not object to the Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. T. M. HEALY: I desire to offer an expression of thanks to the right hon. Gentleman for that statement. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 40,—

### APPLICATION TO LAND COMMISSION FOR REINSTATEMENT OF TENANT OR FOR PURCHASE OF HOLDING.

(1.) Where the tenancy of a holding has been determined at any time between the first day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, and the sixth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, the landlord or the former tenant of the holding, or both jointly, may, within *twelve months* of the commencement of this Act, apply in the prescribed manner to the Land Commission to act as mediators with a view to the reinstatement of the tenant in the holding or with a view to the purchase of the holding by the tenant.

(2.) Upon any such joint application with a view to reinstatement, the Land Commission may declare the terms and conditions as to rent, and the payment of arrears or otherwise upon which they consider that it would be reasonable that the former tenant should be reinstated in the holding, and, upon the parties consenting within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner, may make an order reinstating the tenant in his holding upon the said terms and conditions.

(3.) Upon any such joint application with a view to the sale of the holding, the Land Commission may declare the amount of the advance which they are prepared to sanction, and the conditions (if any) to be fulfilled previously to the making of such advance, and, upon the parties consenting within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner, may order an advance, subject to the said conditions, in like manner as if an agreement had been made under Section 13 of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, as re-enacted by this Act.

(4.) Upon such application, whether for reinstatement or for a sale being made by either the landlord or the former tenant of the holding, the Land Commission may, if they think fit, after making such inquiry as they think advisable, serve upon the party not having made the application a notice calling upon him to state whether he consents to the application being treated as a joint application, and—

- (*a*) if he consents within the prescribed time, the Land Commission may proceed under this section in like manner as if the application was a joint application; but
- (*b*) if he does not so consent, no further proceedings shall be taken upon such application.

(5.) Every order under this section shall be binding upon all persons, and be final and conclusive.

(7.) An order under this section shall not be made in the case of a holding which, on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, was in the occupation of a tenant.

(8.) For the purposes of this section, the expression "former tenant" shall include the personal representative of the former tenant.

MR. JAMES ROCHE (Kerry, E.) moved in Sub-section (1) to omit the word "between", and to insert instead thereof the word "from," so that the sub-section should read, "at any time from the first day of May."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. ROCHE moved to omit the words "the sixth day of August one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one."

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) moved, in Sub-section (1), after the words "one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, and," to insert the words—

"if the party so served does not within the prescribed time after such service object in the prescribed manner, a joint application within the meaning of the section shall be deemed to have been made for reinstatement or for a sale, as the case may be, and the Land Commission may thereupon proceed under this section accordingly."

The object of the Amendment was to secure that when a tenant applied to the Land Commission to be reinstated, and notice of the application was served on the landlord, if the landlord did not come in and show cause why the tenant should not be reinstated, the application should have the same effect under the clause as if it were a joint application.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) objected to the Amendment because the landlord, owing to circumstances over which he had no control—such as absence from the country—might have no knowledge of this application on the part of the tenant, and also because it brought in the element of compulsion. The landlords had no objection to tenants, who left their farms against their will, and, in obedience to a conspiracy with which they had no sympathy, getting back again; but he could not support this Amendment, because it proposed that the owner of the property should be compelled within a certain time to lodge his objection to the tenant's application.

MR. DILLON said the supporters of the Amendment would have no objection to every precaution being provided that this transaction was not carried on behind the back of the landlord. He therefore hoped the hon. and gallant Member would withdraw his objection.

*MR. SMITH-BARRY (Hunts, Huntingdon) thought the clause went far enough in accepting the principle of arbitration, and he objected to its being further extended.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that all the Amendment aimed at was to avoid putting on the landlord the necessity of formally assenting, or placing him in a position which his pride would not consent to. There was more than hard cash at the bottom of these unhappy disputes. He could quite understand a landlord in the position of the hon. Member for South Hunts refusing to write down a formal assent in these cases and resolving not to appear one way or the other. This was a point on which a concession by the landlords would do much to advance a settlement of these cases.

*Sir J. COLOMB desired to do everything that could reasonably be done to promote voluntary arrangements, but in his opinion the Amendment really departed from the principles on which this part of the Measure was founded. In order to secure that every means should be availed of to bring the parties together, the Land Commission was brought in as an intermediary, but the Amendment appeared to be a departure from that principle.

Colonel SAUNDERSON stated that if his objection could be met in some way he should be glad, because he had every wish to blot out an unhappy page in Irish history. [*Nationalist Cheers.*]

*Mr. SMITH-BARRY pointed out that if the Amendment were accepted it would apply, not only to the plan-of-campaign tenants, but to all evicted tenants, even those evicted yesterday. He was afraid they were going a great deal too far.

Mr. CARSON suggested that, both sides being in substantial agreement, it should be left to the Government to bring up words on Report.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR thought the words had better be settled now. The success of the clause depended on both parties proceeding in a friendly spirit; and, in his opinion, the Government would make a great mistake if they introduced into these voluntary arrangements anything to which the landlords took exception.

Colonel SAUNDERSON thought it should be sufficient if the landlord or his agent wrote a letter saying that he objected—["Hear, hear!" *from the Nationalist Members*]—and accordingly suggested that the words "in the prescribed manner" should be struck out of the Amendment.

Words "in the prescribed manner" omitted from the proposed Amendment; Amendment, as thus altered, agreed to.

Sub-heads (*a*) and (*b*) Sub-section (4) struck out.

Clause 40, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 41,—

SUPPLEMENTAL.—DEFINITIONS.

41.—(1.) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

The expression "dwelling-house" includes any out-house, curtilage, and garden appurtenant thereto.

The expressions "landlord" and "tenant" include respectively the predecessors in title of a landlord or tenant.

The expression "limited owner" means a limited owner within the meaning of Section twenty-six of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, and includes any person having the powers of a tenant for life under the Settled Land Acts, 1882 to 1890.

The expression "lease" includes an agreement for a lease.

The expression "Land Law Acts" means the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, except Part V. thereof, the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, except Part II., and the Redemption of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1891, and does not include the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, except so far as the provisions of it are necessary for giving effect to the above-mentioned portion of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881.

The expression "Land Purchase Acts" means the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, the Land Purchase Acts as therein defined, and the Redemption of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1891.

The expression "judicial rent" means a fair rent, whether fixed by the Court or by agreement or arbitration or by demand of the landlord accepted by the tenant, and any reference to an application to fix a fair rent shall include a reference to an agreement to fix a fair rent or to refer to arbitration the fixing of a fair rent, or to the demand of an increased rent by the landlord.

The expression "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made by the Land Commission, save that where the expression refers to financial matters, it shall mean prescribed by rules made by the Treasury, and where the expression relates to matters connected with the Land Judge, it shall mean prescribed by rules made under Part Two of this Act.

The expression "Receiver Judge" means the judge assigned under Section nineteen of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1885, for the execution of the duties in that section mentioned.

(2.) In the definition of "holding" contained in the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, "parcel of land" shall be deemed to include an undivided share of land, whether held alone, or held under the same contract of tenancy with land held in severalty.

(3.) Any jurisdiction vested by this Act in the High Court in relation to the purchase money under the Land Purchase Acts, or otherwise in relation to those Acts, shall subject to rules of court, be exercised by the Land Judge.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 42,—

### APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF PARTS OF ACT.

(1.) Part one of this Act shall, save as is by this Act expressly provided, apply to every proceeding pending at the *commencement of this Act.*

(2.) An application to fix a fair rent for a holding shall not be refused on the ground of any previous decision with reference to the holding or any part thereof, whether between the same parties or otherwise, if such application can be sustained under this Act or any of the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act.

(3.) Parts one and two of this Act shall be construed as one with the Land Law Acts, and together with those Acts may be cited as the Land Law Acts, and shall apply to all holdings to which the Land Law Acts, or any of them, as amended by this Act, apply, and Section twenty-two of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, shall apply as if the said Acts and Parts of this Act were part of the foregoing provisions of the said Act of 1881, within the meaning of the said Section.

(4.) Parts two, three, and five of this Act shall be construed as one with the Land Purchase Acts as herein defined, and, together with those Acts may be cited as the Land Purchase Acts.

(5.) Part four of this Act shall be construed as one with the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts, as defined in the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Act, 1894, and together with those Acts may be cited collectively as the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 43,—

### SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 44,—

### REPEAL OF ACTS.

The Acts specified in the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent mentioned in the third column of that Schedule.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

## NEW CLAUSES.

Clause 4,—

**MR. GERALD BALFOUR** brought up the following New Clause, in place of the one which had ceased to form part of the Bill :—

### AMENDMENT AS TO IMPROVEMENTS.

### APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF PARTS OF ACT.

(1) Where an application is made to the court to fix a fair rent for a holding, which is not subject to the Ulster tenant-right custom or any usage corresponding thereto, or the tenant of which does not claim the benefit of any such custom or usage, the court shall ascertain and record—

(*a*) the annual sum which should be the fair rent of the holding on the assumption that all improvements thereon were made or acquired by the landlord ;

(*b*) the condition of the holding and the buildings thereon ;

(*c*) the improvements made by the tenant wholly or partly by or at his cost, and with respect to each such improvement—

- (i.) the nature, character, and present capital value thereof ;
- (ii.) the date (so near as can be ascertained) at which the same was made ; and
- (iii.) the deduction from the rent proper to be made on account thereof ;

(*d*) the extent (if any) to which the landlord has paid or compensated the tenant in respect of each such improvement ;

(*e*) the improvements made wholly or partly by or at the cost of, or acquired by, the landlord ;

(*f*) such other matters in relation to the holding as the court may think expedient ; and

(*g*) the fair rent of the holding ;

and the record shall be admissible in evidence on its mere production from the proper custody.

(2) No rent shall be allowed or made payable in respect of an improvement made by the tenant on a holding by reason only of the work constituting such improvement not being suitable to the holding.

(3) For the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent, a tenant shall be deemed to have been fully paid or compensated for every improvement made by him in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration.

(4) For the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent, a tenant shall not be deemed to have been paid or compensated for any improvement not made in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration, except to the extent to which the court, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, are of opinion that valuable consideration has been given by the landlord in respect of the improvement.

(5) A contract by a tenant not to claim, on quitting his holding, compensation for any improvement made by him, shall not authorise the allowance of any rent in respect of any improvement, except to the extent to which the court, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, are of opinion that valuable consideration has been given by the landlord in respect of the entering into that contract.

(6) Section four of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, shall not authorise the allowance of any rent in respect of an improvement, provided that the rent may be allowed in respect of an improvement made by the tenant, if made twenty years before the passing of the said Act, and not being a permanent building or reclamation of waste land.

(7) For the purpose of this section valuable consideration shall not be held to have been given by reason of the mere letting of the land on lease or otherwise or the mere enjoyment by the tenant of any improvement where the rent of the holding was not fixed, reduced, abated, or, after the improvement was made, allowed to remain unaltered with the intention expressed or implied of recouping the tenant for his expenditure of capital and labour in making the improvement; and in the case of an improvement made in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration, such intention shall be implied where not expressed.

(8) Sub-sections two and four of section five of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, shall not have effect in the case of applications to fix a fair rent.

(9) Nothing in this section shall affect any right enjoyed under the Ulster tenant right custom or any usage corresponding thereto.

Clause read a First time.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR in moving "that the Clause be read a Second time", said the Government had been freely charged with continually changing the Bill backwards and forwards. It was true that they had dropped the procedure clause, much to his regret, and that was a sacrifice they had been compelled to make owing to the limitation of time at their disposal. Although the form of Clause 4 had been very considerably altered, he did not think that any material change had been made in the substance. As the clause was first introduced it was no doubt open to the charge of obscurity, and they had endeavoured, as far as they could do so, in the changes made to remove that obscurity. He thought it would be found in connection with the sub-sections dealing with compensation that the practical effect of the clause in its amended form was really the same as the clause in its original form; it was much more clear and less ambiguous. It would be said that the Government had dropped altogether one important sub-section of the clause—namely, Subsection 3. It was true that the Government had dropped that sub-section, but from the outset that sub-section was simply an endeavour to state the law as they believed it now stood. The Government had made a few endeavours to state the law. The first was objected to; a second was tried and it was also objected to; and, therefore, the Government took the course, not altogether unnatural in the circumstances, of saying that they had made two attempts to apply the law as it stood, and neither of them being received with favour, the best thing to do was to drop the subsection altogether and leave it to the Courts to decide any matter that might be in dispute. The right hon. Member for the Montrose Burghs, speaking the other day on the Motion to omit Clause 4, stated that this sub-section and the question with which it dealt were in reality the most important touched upon in the Bill. He altogether demurred to that view. The Government were trying to apply the law, but beyond that Mr. Justice Bewley and other witnesses examined before the Select Committee stated that, in their opinion, the question raised in that clause was practically an academical one; and if they were right he could not see how it could be said that the omission or non-omission of the sub-section was of such extreme importance as the right hon. Gentleman represented it to be. He understood that the Sub-Commissioners were now all carrying out the administration of the Acts on the principles declared by Lord Justice Fitzgibbon before the Select Committee to be the principles laid down in this respect by the decision in the case of "Adams *v.* Dunseath." Therefore, if the question was academic at the time that Mr. Justice Bewley gave his evidence before the Committee, it had become even of less importance now, because, as he understood, the law as laid down by Lord Justice Fitzgibbon was being carried out in practice. It appeared to him, therefore, that the Committee would, on the whole, be wasting valuable time if they were to occupy themselves merely with discussing whether a particular attempt at definition in the Bill was or was not in accordance with the opinion of Lord Justice Fitzgibbon and in accordance with the decision in "Adams *v.* Dunseath." No doubt there was an important question raised by Amendments which were to be moved as to whether the altered definition of "improvements" included within the word "improvement" the whole of the benefit which accrued to the holding from the work carried out by the tenant; but that question was not raised as he introduced the Bill originally, the mere omission of the subsection in the original Bill or the Amendment he subsequently put down to the sub-section were of no serious importance. A word ought to be said as to the first sub-section in the new clause. The Committee would see that the new version of the clause very considerably extended and amplified the details which were required to be ascertained by the Court in the first draft of the Bill. He did not conceive that in doing this the Government would be met with any opposition on either side, because greater detail was one of the matters insisted on by the Committee, and he was given to understand that the landlords on the other side also desired greater detail. But there was a question in connection with a sub-section which required careful consideration. It would be observed that in the new clause the Government had excepted from the operation of the schedule holdings which were subject to the Ulster tenant-right custom. These words had been put in because the Government were most anxious to make it clear that they had no intention in the Bill to in any way prejudice rights or privileges which might be enjoyed by the tenants under the Ulster custom. It would be clear to the Committee that in excepting Ulster in that way it would be necessary afterwards either to provide a special schedule for the case of Ulster or else leave it out. In drafting the new clause the Government left a gap purposely because they wished to inquire carefully whether there was anything in connection with the Ulster custom which made it difficult or impossible to apply the schedule. In dealing with the matter in this way the Government had an open mind; but if there was anything in the schedule inconsistent with the Ulster custom or interfering with the privileges of the tenants a proviso could be inserted to the effect that the Land Commission should in these circumstances omit such conditions in this schedule as they might consider inconsistent with that custom. The question, however, could be decided in Committee after discussion. On the whole, although the form of the clause had been considerably changed, it had been a change merely in the interests of greater clearness, and no principle had been substantially altered.

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs) said he still maintained that by the omission of the third sub-section this vital clause dealing with the question of improvements had been seriously damaged—to put the charge no higher. When the right hon. gentleman introduced the Bill he dwelt on the importance of this particular subject, namely, the apportionment of the enhanced letting value after allowance had been made in respect of the tenants' outlay; and the right hon. Gentleman was then, though he was apparently no longer, aware of the great importance from a practical point of view of putting an end to the doubts raised by the judgment in "Adams *v.* Dunseath." If the right hon. Gentleman had gone through a portion of the evidence dealing with this matter he must see that it was a subject urgently requiring to be dealt with. The evidence given before the Committee was that the practice of the Sub-Commissioners and even of the Commissioners themselves varied. This clause touched a momentous question, and their contention was that it should not be left to the individual discretion of the Sub-Commissioners, but should be settled by legislation. They contended that there should be laid down once for all a principle which should guide the Sub-Commissioners in deciding as to the letting value. He had listened carefully to the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman and he did not find in them an explanation of this point. He did not by any means agree that the difficulty was insurmountable, or that words could not be framed which would guide the Sub-Commissioners. He considered that a very heavy blow had been dealt at the Bill by the retreat from the position taken up by the Government on the Second Reading. According to the change in the words they were not going to allow the Sub-Commissioners to take into consideration the very important matter of the occupation right. [" No, no ! "] That was as he was advised. He did not question the full integrity of the Sub-Commissioners' intentions, but he could not leave out of sight the enormous pressure which was sometimes put upon them in another place. He had to remember the pressure of 1881-82 which was applied by the Donoughmore Commission. He thought that the directions as originally proposed to be given to the Sub-Commissioners were more favourable than those proposed under the new clause. Those words would have enabled the Sub-Commissioners in fixing a fair rent to make a difference between a sitting tenant and his landlord and a new comer.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that it was clear that occupation rights were included.

MR. J. MORLEY said he was advised that the change in the words would prevent the Sub-Commissioners from taking into consideration the important matter of the occupation right.

MR. DILLON said the Government did not propose to do anything to improve the law as laid down in "Adams and Dunseath." The tenants were not satisfied with the law as laid down in that decision, and now the Government in this clause failed to grapple with that critical question. He thought the Chief Secretary had taken up two separate positions which were absolutely inconsistent. This was not a small subject, for obviously there was no security for the tenant unless he was protected in respect of any increase in the value of his holding due to his own capital and labour. He therefore thought the statement of the Chief Secretary that the Government never even dreamed of improving the law in that regard would create widespread dissatisfaction and anger throughout the whole of Ireland.

MR. T. M. HEALY thought it only just to acknowledge that the course which the Government had taken in postponing this clause and bringing it up now was a wise one. It entirely negatived the statement made by some very important persons in a letter to the North of Ireland Farmers' Club that the intention of the Government was to entirely abandon the clause; and, furthermore, as the clause had now first to be read a Second time and then discussed in detail, Irish members would have two shots at it. In regard to the Ulster custom, he thought the course taken by the Government was the best one. The question was an extremely doubtful and difficult one. They had had in connection with this clause an illustration of the way in which public opinion was misled in Ireland. The clause repealed certain provisions of the Act of 1870, under which, according to a decision of the Court of Appeal, a tenant whose lease prevented him from contracting himself out of that Act might be rented on his improvements. This Bill repealed that provision, and he found that a motion passed by the Irish Agriculturists Association repudiating the Bill was seconded in a strong speech by Mr. O'Neill, who was the subject of this very abominable decision. His view of the Bill, the hon. and learned Member concluded, was that it was an extremely small and moderate Measure. The Government were proceeding tentatively in the matter, as one would expect from a Conservative Government. Those who on that account would not endeavour to give the Bill a shove along and to push it into the House of Lords in something like a reasonable and creditable shape were not only deceiving the House; they were deceiving their country and were its worst enemies.

Clause read a Second time.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR moved in Sub-section (1) to omit the words "Where an application is made to." His reason he said was this. Supposing a preliminary objection was taken to any fair rent being fixed, it would be unreasonable to require that all these particulars should be first made out.

Amendment agreed to.

Further Amendment proposed to omit the word "fix" and to insert the word "fixes."

Amendment agreed to.

COLONEL WARING moved in Sub-section (1) to omit the words—

> "which is not subject to the Ulster tenant-right custom or any usage corresponding thereto, or the tenant of which does not claim the benefit of any such custom or usage."

He moved the Amendment, he explained, on the ground that it was importing into the Ulster tenant-right custom an element which had never had a place in it. The Ulster tenant-right custom was confined entirely to the value of the improvements of the holding at its transfer from one tenant to another, and it was entirely a new departure to import into it the implication, as this clause did, that it dealt in any way with the question of fair rent. They only asked that they should have the same facts recorded and the same basis to go upon in any future proceedings in regard to the holding which landlords and tenants had in other parts of the country. Nobody placed a higher value on the Ulster custom than he did. He had always recognised it to the full in his own case; and if he thought the inclusion of the Ulster farmers in this schedule would in any way interfere or detract from the fullest exercise of the Ulster custom he would be the last person to propose this Amendment.

MR. J. PINKERTON (Galway) said that every Member of the Committee must know that the buildings on a farm formed a very large and important part of the improvements; yet in almost every case the buildings had been excluded, simply because the landlord's solicitor came forward and stated that the landlord was prepared to admit that they were the property of the tenant. God never made a Sub-Commissioner who could value a farm without the buildings upon it. By leaving out the buildings the Government were robbing the tenant of at least three-fourths of his improvements. He had some acquaintance with the work of the Sub-Commissioners, as he had acted in several cases as valuer for the tenant, and in every one of these cases by the adroit manipulation of the landlord's agent, the tenants received no allowance in respect of the buildings. It was absolutely necessary that the tenant should be secured in this matter, and that full allowance should be made for the buildings. Agricultural land without the buildings was perfectly valueless. If the buildings were left out of account, in the vast majority of cases the land would not have more than a prairie value.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said there was one portion of the first sub-section which he would like to see the Ulster tenant get the benefit of, and that was the portion which provided that where improvements were recorded, the record should be evidence of the making of the improvements. That was a very valuable provision, and he thought the Ulster farmers ought to get the benefit of it. When Mr. Gladstone was passing his Act of 1870, he recognised the importance of this question, and dealt with it in a special clause providing a procedure by which the tenant, the moment he made an improvement, could go into Court and record it; but the clause had proved absolutely valueless, because it involved expenditure by the tenant which he could not incur.

MR. R. M. DANE (Fermanagh, N.) said he should oppose the Amendment because he understood that the entire clause was governed by the first sub-section, which excepted the Ulster custom from the clause.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said that in his opinion Sub-section (9) governed the whole clause and not Sub-section (1).

MR. DANE said that if that was so, and the Amendment covered only what was in Sub-section 1, he should waive his objection.

MR. DILLON said that if the Government had adhered to their original draft, this question would never have arisen. Sub-section 9 only applied, as he understood it, to the rights already enjoyed.

MR. CARSON thought it was incorrect to mix up the general question of the Ulster custom with this clause. It was perfectly apparent that this clause applied to the whole of Ireland, and he would suggest that the words referring to the Ulster custom should be struck out of the clause and a general clause afterwards inserted reserving to Ulster all that Ulster now had.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that provision must be made for maintaining the Ulster custom, and it was admitted that there was no object in doing anything in Sub-section 1 which would prevent the Ulster tenant getting the advantage of the clause. He would therefore suggest that the Amendment should be accepted, and when they got to Sub-section 9, they should consider whether or not it was sufficient to safeguard the interests of the Ulster tenants.

*MR. J. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.) said he should certainly oppose anything that would abridge in any shape or form the privilege of the Ulster tenants.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that the proposal of the Government was to accept this Amendment, undertaking to make it perfectly clear, either by Sub-section 9 or by a new clause, that any privileges or advantages enjoyed by the Ulster tenants should be absolutely protected.

MR. PINKERTON insisted that some security should be given to the Ulster tenants that in future the buildings would be taken into consideration.

MR. J. A. RENTOUL (Down, E.) remarked that the striking out of these words did not seem to him to make any difference whatever.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said that the hon. Member for Galway would perhaps be relieved if he would allow him to read a statement by Mr. Bailey, which described how the Ulster tenants were dealt with. Mr. Bailey said all improvements are presumed to be the property of the tenants, no matter when made. It is not necessary to prove the making of such improvements as buildings and fences. They are evident, and the tenant is entitled to them without limitation of time, where they add to the value of the holding.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL said that, as representing an Ulster constituency, he knew the tenant-farmers in his constituency were anxious and fearful lest anything should be done to alter their existing position.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said words would be brought up so specific, precise, and all-inclusive, that Ulster tenant-right would be more absolutely and completely preserved.

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR J. COLOMB moved in Sub-section (1) after the word "record" to insert the words "in the form of a Schedule."

MR. MAURICE HEALY protested against stereotyping in the form of an Act of Parliament procedure which the Land Commission would direct whenever necessary, but which they might wish to vary from time to time. There was a mass of things which it was desirable the Sub-Commissioners should do, but they could not put them all in an Act of Parliament. Let the Committee give the Land Commissioners credit for some common sense, and not multiply needless statutory directions to the Sub-Commissioners.

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR J. COLOMB moved to leave out Paragraph (*a*), and to insert :—

> "the several classes of land found on the holding, marking same on a map, and showing in respect of each such class the estimated area thereof, and the sum which should be the fair rent thereof (per acre or per class) on the assumption that all improvements thereon were made or acquired by the landlord."

The hon. Member said it was desirable the proceedings of the Land Court, and all matters connected with it should be on a basis that everyone could fairly understand. Where different classes of land were dealt with they could only arrive at a fair rent by aggregating the total value of each class of land, or the value per acre. So it was in the interests of common sense and the avoidance of disputes and difficulties to lay down rules as to the information to be provided in the Schedule.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the Amendment would not serve any useful purpose, and asked the hon. Member not to press it.

Amendment negatived.

MR. DILLON moved in paragraph (1) Sub-section (*c*), to leave out the words "the present capital value thereof," and to insert instead thereof the words "the increasing letting value due thereto." He asked upon what basis was a man to act in ascertaining the present capital value of an improvement? Was he to consider the cost of the improvement to the tenant or the increased value to the holding of the work? If not, on what principle was he to ascertain the value? It had been stated in evidence before the Committee on the Working of the Land Acts that if a tenant spent say £100 on his holding, and, owing to the poor quality of the soil, or some other circumstance, only increased the value of the holding by £2 per annum, the Sub-Commissioners only gave him credit for that £2. But if the tenant had the good luck to increase the value of the farm by £10 per year, he did not get credit for the £10, but was allowed some indefinite interest, for there would seem to be no principle to guide the Sub-Commissioners in the matter. In other words, the Sub-Commissioners said to the tenant: "If you venture your money and fail you will be the sufferer, but if you win you will get none of the rewards of success." He contended that such a system was fatal to the expenditure of capital, and of enterprise and of industry on the part of the Irish farmers.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he thought there was no difference between the words in the Bill and the words the hon. Gentleman proposed to insert. The present capital value of the improvements meant, of course, their present capital value *qua* improvements, and the increased letting value due to them. The advantage of the words in the Bill was that they carried on the language already used in the Schedule.

MR. CARSON said the matter was not of vital importance, but he thought it would be of advantage to the landlord and the tenant if in the assessments of the Land Court, both "the present capital value," and "the increased letting value" of the improvements on a holding were recorded. He therefore suggested that both terms should be used in the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Words "and the increased letting value due thereto" inserted after the words "present capital value thereof."

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND moved to omit the words "proper to be" from Paragraph (iii) in Sub-section (1)—"The deduction from the rent proper to be made on account thereof."

Amendment agreed to.

*Mr. Dillon.*

MR. MICHAEL McCARTAN (Down, S.), moved to omit the words "or compensated" from Paragraph (*d*)—"the extent (if any) to which the landlord has paid or compensated the tenant in respect of each such improvement." He thought the landlord was sufficiently protected by the word "paid" which had the advantage of being simple and easily understood.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the phrase "paid or compensated" the tenant was used regularly throughout the Acts.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said the words "or compensated" had led to a great deal of confusion and complication in the decisions of Sub-Commissioners in respect to tenants' improvements.

Amendment negatived.

MR. DILLON moved in Paragraph (*g*) after the word "holding" to insert the words "due regard being had to the occupation interest of the tenant." He said this was a point on which Mr. Justice Bewley was very emphatic, but it was one which all the Sub-Commissioners did not take into account.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR objected to the addition of the proposed words. The occupation interest was already taken into account, and if the words were put in it would be assumed that, over and above the interest now taken into consideration by the Courts, there was something else which it would appear had been neglected—namely, the occupation interest. He should certainly oppose the Amendment.

MR. DILLON said the Amendment would simply be a direction to the Sub-Commissioners to administer the law in accordance with the view of the Court which was presided over by Mr. Justice Bewley. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would further consider the point between now and Report, and in that case he would not put the Committee to the trouble of a Division.

MR. T. M. HEALY remarked that when they had a statement from the Chief Secretary on his responsibility that it was the duty of the Sub-Commissioners to take the occupation interest into account, that that was only incorporating what was already the law, he was quite sure the Sub-Commissioners would recognise what their duty was in the matter.

Mr. CARSON demurred to any attempt being made by anything which had fallen from the Chief Secretary or any other person to interfere with the construction of an Act of Parliament. The Chief Secretary was perfectly right, the occupation interest was taken into consideration now. What was occupation interest? It was this, that the sitting tenant had the right to go before the Commissioners and get his rent fixed at a figure under the market or competition value. There was no other occupation interest whatsoever, and never was, and that the tenant got under the Act.

Mr. FLYNN quoted from the Report of the Select Committee presided over by Mr. John Morley, to show that, the occupation interest was not always taken into account at present. That, he said, was clear from the evidence of experts who were conversant with the decisions and practices of the Sub-Commissioners. What had protected the occupation right was in the north the Ulster custom, and in the south a wholesome dread and fear of popular combination, such as the Land League agitation. Surely it would be a healthier state of things if the law now formally recognised the tenant's undoubted right.

Mr. CARSON, as his statement had been challenged, quoted what Mr. Sub-Commissioner Bailey said in the Committee, as follows:—"I would say that the fair rent of a holding was about roughly two-thirds of the competition rent." That was what the tenant got by being in occupation of the holding.

Mr. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) said the statement of the right hon. Gentleman was an entire fallacy, because it ignored the improvements which in Ireland were in most cases made by the tenants. On the average of holdings in Ulster, 30 per cent. was a very poor allowance for a tenant's improvements, without anything whatever for occupation right.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR pointed out that occupation right was a very difficult thing for a witness to deal with, and he was persuaded that no one had deemed that occupation interest was included under the present law.

Mr. DILLON observed that Mr. Justice Bewley had said: "I think that occupation interest does exist and should be respected and taken into consideration in fixing a fair rent." He would not press the matter further at the present stage, but would raise the question again at the Report stage.

Mr. McCARTAN contended that the Chief Secretary ought to give some undertaking that the question would be dealt with at a subsequent stage.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. DENIS KILBRIDE (Galway, N.) moved at the end of Sub-section (1), after the word "custody", to insert:—

"for the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent, the word 'improvement' shall, notwithstanding anything in the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, be construed to mean any increased letting value due to or arising out of any expenditure of labour or capital on or in respect of the holding."

He explained that in the Land Act of 1881 it was provided that no rent should be payable on a tenant's improvements, but that, unfortunately, the expression "improvements" was not defined in the Act, and that to interpret the word it was found necessary to refer to the definition in the Act of 1870. Under that Act it was required that an improvement should be a work, and the tenant was only entitled to a certain amount of interest on the capital expended by him on the improvement. The tenants' own view was that they were entitled to the increased letting value accruing to the holding, in consequence of their labour and the expenditure of their capital. In Adams *v.* Dunseath, however, it was held by the Court of Appeal, that all that the tenant was entitled to was a certain percentage on the capital expended upon an improvement. The object of his Amendment was to put beyond dispute what the value of an improvement was to be held to be. If a tenant should expend £100 in the improvement of his holding, and the value of the holding were thereby increased by £5 or £10 a year, the tenants ought to receive the entire benefit of that £5 or £10. At present, under the interpretation of the courts of law, instead of getting that, he would only get a certain indefinite percentage. In the Committee upstairs the official witnesses all refused to determine what that percentage was. His object was to do away with the interpretation put upon the Act of 1881 in Adams *v.* Dunseath, and to establish beyond the possibility of cavil a question that the value of a tenant's improvements meant the whole increased letting value of the holding due to the expenditure of his capital and labour. Tourists in Ireland who saw unreclaimed land were apt to think that the state of the land was due to the want of enterprise and indolence of the peasantry. That was an error. The existence of unreclaimed land was due to the fact that formerly the tenants knew that if they made improvements they were liable to be robbed of them, and that in recent years all they could claim with success was an undefined percentage on their expenditure. Let the tenant have the full benefit of his labour and work. He wished the tenant to be stimulated to reclaim the land upon his holding, and wanted to do away with the miserable hair-splitting in the courts of law on the question of the percentage which a tenant should receive in respect of his outlay. As a rule, money spent in reclamation brought in a very small return. He knew cases where capital expended in various reclaiming operations did not yield more than 2½ or 3 per cent. It was very rarely that the tenant got more than 3 or 4 per cent. on the capital sunk in the improvement of his holding. Surely that interest ought not to be divided with somebody else. They would probably hear a good deal from the representatives of the landlords about the "inherent capacity of the soil," which they averred was the property of the landlord. But what was the money value of this inherent capacity of the soil as long as it was allowed to remain dormant? It had no money value as long as it was in a condition of inactivity. He hoped they would have the support of Members from Ulster who represented the tenant farmers, because if this was a burning question in the south and west of Ireland, it was a still more burning question in Ulster, and with the Presbyterian farmers. He had received within the last six months Resolution after Resolution from mass meetings of tenant farmers, of Presbyterians and Unionists in Ulster claiming that the whole of the increased letting value resulting from the improvements of the soil was the property of the tenant. All these Acts of Parliament dealing with the land question were due to the fact that when they first dealt with Irish land they did not accurately define what they meant by the word "improvement." They left that to be defined by the Land Judges and the Court of Appeal in Ireland, and their decisions had put them in the present difficulties with regard to Irish land legislation. If the Chief Secretary and the Attorney General for Ireland wished to finally settle this question they ought to accept the definition of "improvement" in the Amendment, which was, he thought, incapable of misconstruction. All who took an interest in the British taxpayer ought also to support it, for it affected the whole question of land purchase, and all the security for the advancement of the £30,000,000 under the Land Purchase Act of 1891. This Bill would take away all fictitious and unnecessary safeguards for that security, and the only security would be the land in Ireland. It was to the interest of the British taxpayer that these transactions should be carried out on commercial principles He begged to move the Amendment.

MR. DILLON said there could not be a shadow of a doubt that it was the intention of the Act of 1881 that no rent should be made payable in respect of any improvement executed by the tenant on his holding. It had simply been the interpretation put by the Courts in Ireland upon these Acts which maimed and mutilated them, which had kept Parliament busy for the last 15 years trying to patch them up. He had put upon the Paper the following Amendment, which would have the same effect as that of the hon. Member, but which was framed in the language which had been used by the Chief Secretary himself:—

"For the purpose of removing certain doubts which have arisen as to the interest of the tenant in the increased letting value of a holding arising from expenditure of labour or capital by the tenant on or in respect of such holding, be it enacted that 'in fixing the fair rent of a holding no rent shall be allowed or made payable in respect of such increased letting value."

He was convinced that the Amendment of the hon. Member for North Galway was as much in the interest of the landlord as of the tenant, as it would increase his security by promoting and stimulating the enterprise of the tenant. It was preposterous to talk of some latent capacity of the soil that might be called into play at any moment, as the landlords had declared over and over again that they would not make any more improvements. If the Amendment were accepted it would result in an enormous simplification of the law. He waited with great curiosity to hear what argument would be advanced against this Amendment by the right hon. Gentleman. The Irish landlords, as they had said themselves, were now reduced to the position of rent-chargers, and the position of a rent-charger was a much more secure and comfortable position than that of a man who was trying to extract gold from land let at a rack rent. By the admission of everybody the landlord would never obtain the latent capacity of the land except by the consent of the tenant, who might or might not make any improvements. It was a very extraordinary position to take up, to say that the whole question was an academic one, but if it was their proposal ought to be accepted, as it was infinitely simpler, and easier to administer. The Government, in this discussion, ought to be bound to take up their stand upon one platform or another with regard to this subject. In the vast majority of cases the tenant in Ireland who expended labour or capital upon his holding did not get more than three per cent. for his investment, while in a large number of cases in Mayo he did not get more than one or two per cent. upon it. Of course there were a few lucky men who obtained 10 or 20 per cent. interest upon their investment, but such cases were very rare. It had often been alleged that the reason the tenants in Ireland did not obtain a larger return for their capital was because they were bad farmers, and because the country was in a backward condition. But the country was naturally in a backward condition because the farmers had no protection for their capital. It was a universal error on the part of Irish landlords that they would lay out no money in the improvement of their property, and that in such cases where the tenants improved, the value of their improvements might be seized upon at any moment by their landlords. He appealed to the Committee to accept the Amendment, which was one of considerable importance in the eyes of the tenant farmer. The Amendment, if accepted, would tend to induce the tenants to put their labour and their capital into the soil, and therefore he appealed to the Irish Members opposite who were landlords to accept it. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that no doubt it was the desire of the Government to pass a Measure of a practical character, which would induce the tenants of Ireland to invest their labour and capital in the land. There might be good reason on that consideration for the State to lend money to the tenants for that purpose at a low rate of interest, or of giving them a bonus for any improvement which they might effect. He, however, could not see that there was any reason for confiscating the property of the landlords for the encouragement of the tenants. That, however, was the meaning of the Amendment. It had been contended that unless the Amendment was adopted the intentions of Parliament, as declared in previous Acts, would be frustrated. They had, however, the best interpretation of the framers of the Act of 1881 in the language of Mr. Gladstone, who took an entirely different view of the matter from that taken by hon. Members opposite. When Mr. Parnell brought forward his Bill in 1883, Mr. Gladstone protested against the proposal to confiscate the landlords' property by making every improvement that had ever been made upon an estate the property of the tenant for the time being. If they were to determine that all improvements upon the land in Ireland which had been effected since the beginning of time were the property of the tenant, they would most undoubtedly be confiscating the landlords' property, and they would be reducing the landlords' interest in the land simply to the prairie value.

MR. DILLON said that Commissioner Doyle had declared that if they were to reduce the landlords' interest in the land to a prairie value they would have to increase it very much indeed. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*]

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that if the Amendment were to be adopted, its effect would be to confiscate the property of the landlords. In these circumstances he could not accept the Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.) said that in his opinion the reply of the right hon. Gentleman would be profoundly disappointing to Irish Nationalist Members, because by refusing to accept the Amendment he had rendered the Bill practically worthless to the tenant-farmers in Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman had said that to accept the Amendment would be to confiscate the property of the landlords, and he had quoted an opinion of Mr. Gladstone in support of that assertion. He, however, could quote an equally eminent authortiy, that of Mr. John Bright, in the opposite direction. He believed that nine-tenths of the improvements that had been effected upon the farm lands of Ireland had been made by the tenants, and not at the expense of the landlords. The law as it stood was a deliberate confiscation of the tenants' property, and this worthless Bill would stereotype that law.

Mr. J. MORLEY said that some time ago the Leader of the House took part in a discussion on the views of Mr. Henry George; and the right hon. Gentleman then maintained the proposition that most rent in England and Scotland was not rent in the true sense, but was, in fact, interest on the landlord's capital. The right hon. Gentleman gave as an illustration the case of a farm of 400 acres. He specified three heads of outlay by the landlord, amounting in all to £8,000. The gross rent of the farm was £700; but there were outgoings, which reduced it to £630 net, which was 8 per cent. on the £8,000. A deduction of 3 per cent. was made for rates, tithe, etc., leaving as a net return a 5 per cent. return on the outlay. The right hon. Gentleman wound up by saying that not one farthing of that was due to the "inherent properties of the soil," as Mr. Henry George called them. He denied that they were any true foundation for rent. If that was the right hon. Gentleman's contention, he could not see the excessive enormity which seemed to attach to prairie value in his eyes.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said that he did not dissent from the substantial accuracy of the version of what he had said. He did lay down the proposition, which he believed to be perfectly true, that at this moment, in a highly developed farming country, such as the lowlands of Scotland, and possibly the north of England, where there had been an immense expenditure on farm buildings, drainage, etc., the fall of agricultural prices had left to the landlord only a bare commercial interest—if that—on his original outlay. But he did not see that that had any relation to the present dispute. What the landlord had lost was the whole purchase money of his estate. A farm bought two generations ago, say, had had all this money spent upon it; and if the fall in prices could have been foreseen, that expenditure would not have been undertaken. He could not see how the right hon. Gentleman passed from these premises to the conclusion to which he wished to force him. While he believed that the argument about the "inherent properties of the soil" had no application, he would admit that if Mr. Henry George's arguments were worth anything they were applicable in the case of Irish land. In Ireland the landlord did not make the improvements; in England he did. But, as he held, and as the House held, that property in land, as apart from improvements, was a perfectly legitimate form of property, and, as every Irish tenant held that view as strongly as himself—[*cheers*]—Mr. Henry George's views should be as readily repudiated in Ireland as they were in England. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.) said that the landlord had already made allowance in the rent for the inherent capacities of the soil. Why, otherwise, was land let at different values—some at 1s. an acre and some at 10s. an acre? What even might be said as to the past, with regard to the future it could not be denied that, when a fair rent was fixed, the land was let with all its inherent capabilities. It was a foolish policy on the part of the landlord to resist this claim of the tenants, which was merely that they should not be rented on their improvements. The Crofters Commission had rejected the principle laid down in "Adams *v.* Dunseath," although there was no provision in the Crofters Act corresponding to the Improvements Clause in the Irish Land Acts. [Mr. T. M. HEALY here whispered something to the hon. Member.] He was informed that he was wrong in that particular; but, of course, if he was wrong, his case was all the stronger. [*Laughter.*] The provision for which the Irish Members were asking being in the Scotch Law, he thought it would be indefensible on the part of Parliament to refuse to place the two sets of tenants on an equality.

MR. RENTOUL argued that the tenant's improvements were in the nature of a gambling transaction. In one case he would lay out a large amount of money with no certainty that it would be returned; in another case the improvements made on another part of the farm would yield twofold and threefold. The result was that the tenant had to place one set of improvements against the other. There was hardly a tenant who made extensive improvements on his farm who did not fail in some of them. The argument, however, was that the tenant should be rented on those improvements which turned out well, though no compensation was offered to him as a set-off to the improvements which had been attempted, but which had failed. Within his own experience and to his own loss improvements were attempted in subsoiling land in Ireland, and it was thought that this land after the outlay of a large amount of money would produce crops. Before the subsoiling it was worth a penny an acre; but since the subsoiling, costing an enormous amount of money, it had not been worth more than 1s. 6d. an acre. Inherent capabilities of the soil sometimes existed and sometimes they did not; and the tenant had to take his chance; and those who supported this Amendment contended that the tenant who showed pluck, energy, knowledge and capacity should not be rented on the improvements which he had made by his own labour and expenditure of money.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL thought that this was a vital point in the Bill, and said it was vain for the Chief Secretary to imagine that unless such an Amendment as this was inserted the Bill would give any satisfaction in Ireland. [*Cheers.*] He had no hesitation in saying that if the Government left this clause in its present shape and rejected this Amendment the tenantry of Ireland would be in almost exactly the same position as they were in at the present moment. A remarkable case came before him in the North of Ireland. It was a farm of 40 acres which had been taken by the tenant's grandfather 40 or 50 years ago. The case came on for adjudication before the Land Court, and it was conceded that the tenant, his father and grandfather, had improved 38 acres of the farm. Two acres remained in the condition in which they were at the time the farm was originally taken. The farm therefore showed the state of the original farm, and the effect of the tenant's improvements, which were all made by the tenant. It was proved by witnesses that the unimproved two acres were valued at 2s. to 3s. 6d. per acre, and the improved portion was at least worth 12s. an acre. On what principle of common honesty could it be said that the difference between 3s. and 12s. should go into the landlord's pocket? It was a fallacy to say that the Amendment would involve going back to prairie value; it embodied, indeed, the fair principle of the Act of 1881, Section 8. In every part of the country the occupation right or interest of the sitting tenant in the holding had always been recognised, at least by good landlords. In the South of Ireland it never entered into a just landlord's head to put a tenant out by the sheriff without giving him compensation. ["Hear, hear!"] He trusted that his right hon. Friend the Attorney General would not send the Irish Members back to Ireland with such a Bill as this so far as improvements were concerned. Every morning they were receiving representations from meetings all over the country, declaring that if the clause passed as it is, so far from being a boon, the Bill would leave Ireland in precisely the same excruciating condition that it was at present. ["Hear, hear!"]

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND quoted from the judgment in Adams *v.* Dunseath, to the effect that improvements which brought out the latent capabilities of the soil, the increased value did not necessarily belong to the tenant.

After the usual interval the Chair was taken by Mr. Stuart-Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam).

Mr. PINKERTON, in supporting the Amendment, said that in Ireland with an enormous expenditure on the part of the tenants in improvements, rents were higher than in any part of England or Scotland. The Ulster tenants were anxious that this Amendment should pass, because so far as the state of agriculture was concerned at present, the removal of legal technicalities and the glaring blunders of existing Acts would confer no immediate good upon them. What they wanted at the present moment was a substantial reduction of rent, and inasmuch as the Government had declined to shorten the judicial period for which fair rents were fixed and give them an opportunity of going into court, they should at least take due precautions that when the tenants did enter the courts they could not possibly be rented on their own improvements. What would be thought of a mine owner in England who put the price of the finished article upon the raw material? What the Irish landlords were claiming at the present moment was that the raw material in Ireland when it had been turned into the highly finished article should be credited to them (the landlords) at the full letting price. The Chief Secretary said he objected to further reducing the rents on the strength of the tenants' improvements. But the right hon. Gentleman shut his eyes to the fact that it was only because of these improvements the Irish tenants were enabled to pay at the present time what were practically rack rents. All the improvements in the case of Irish land had been the work of the tenants. This Amendment did not interfere with the landlord's property in the soil in the remotest degree. It gave him the full letting value of its inherent capacity. But that inherent capacity might lie locked in the land till the crack of doom so far as the landlord had any concern in it. It was the tenant who unlocked it and by refusing this Amendment they would be depriving him of that key which could unlock the latent capacity of the land, handicapping him in the international race, and refusing that which might put him to a certain extent on a level with the tenants in England and Scotland. He hoped hon. Members from Ireland would give the people of this country another object lesson, and that they would take united action to secure to the tenants this measure of protection and thereby end the struggle that had been carried on for centuries.

*Mr. JORDAN said that if the Government refused the Amendment, they would be sowing the seeds of a new agitation in Ireland, which would extend even to loyal Ulster. A settlement of this question was necessary in the interest of the landlord as well as of the tenants, and it would be better for the peace of the Government, who hoped to be in power for some years, that they should settle it at once. The tenants of Ireland thought that those who made the improvements ought to get all the benefit of them. If the landlords made the improvements, as they do in England, by all means let them get the benefit of them if they made the land more valuable; but surely if the landlord refused to make improvements and the tenant made them, by all the rules of right and justice the tenant ought to get the full benefit of them. He could not see how the Government could resist such a proposition as that; but the Chief Secretary and the landlords seemed to think that the tenant should make all the improvements and that the landlord should take the benefit of them. That was really what their contention amounted to. In order to deprive the tenant of the benefit of his improvements, new phrases were concocted, such as "the inherent capacity of the soil." He would like to know what other capacity the soil had but an inherent capacity. [*Laughter.*] Did the Chief Secretary or the Attorney General, with his great legal experience, or the Member for Dublin University, ever hear of an external or exherent capacity of the soil. [*Laughter.*] If the soil was deprived of its inherent capacity what was there left? A Sahara. Was there anything left that the agriculturist could operate upon? The inherent capacity of the soil was what the landlord had already let to the tenant and what the tenant was already paying rent for. He paid rent for little else, and when the tenant spent his labour and capital upon it he was developing the inherent capacity of the soil. After paying quite enough for the raw material he was asked to pay something more for the manufactured article. Although the landlord was getting the full value of the inherent capacity of the soil in rent, he wanted to turn round and in the name of that inherent capacity, rob the tenant of the improvements he had grafted on that inherent capacity. These were beautiful phrases by which to mislead the public and to appropriate the tenant's improvements. Of course, the Chief Secretary was doing the best he could for the landlords, and it was quite evident that he was not an Irish farmer. [*Laughter.*] He wished the right hon. Gentleman had to cultivate a little patch on the mountain side for a few years. They would hear very little of his academic arguments after that.

**Mr. GEORGE MURNAGHAN** (Tyrone, Mid), thought it was only proper and fair that the representatives of the tenant farmers of Ireland should let the Government understand exactly where they stood. The position was that if their very reasonable Amendment was rejected the Bill would be a useless Bill for the tenant farmers of Ireland. The Irish Members wished it to be understood that if the tenant was not secured in his improvements, the Bill of 1896 would be a useless Bill and would bring no comfort or relief to the tenant farmers. His position as the representative of, perhaps, the largest agricultural constituency in Ireland, was his defence for standing up at that moment. He knew that every moment of time was valuable, and he had hitherto not occupied one minute of the time of the Committee; but at a critical moment like this it was only right and proper that he should express to the Committee the feelings that lay in the breasts of the farmers in his constituency. A critical moment had arrived and if the Government refused the Amendment they would destroy the usefulness of the Bill. What was the Amendment? It seemed to him so reasonable and fair that he could not understand how the Government could refuse to accept it. What did it propose! It simply proposed that any increased letting value due to any expenditure of labour or capital on the part of the tenant should not be rented on. The Government ought to hesitate before they adopted such a woeful step as the rejection of this Amendment. If the right hon. Gentleman desired to make his Government in Ireland a success, if he desired to secure peace and contentment, and if he desired to carry out the pledges which his supporters gave throughout Ulster, he would accept the Amendment. The hon. Member for South Tyrone shook his head. He unhesitatingly said that the tenant-farmers of the North of Ireland understood they were not to be charged on any improvement and that the inherent qualities of the soil should not act as a detriment to them. If the Government intended to carry out the pledges made by their supporters in Ireland they would accept the Amendment, and they would not do such an injury to the tenant-farmers as would be involved in its rejection.

**Mr. JASPER TULLY** (Leitrim, S.) said he wished to support this Amendment, which desired to give to the tenants the full benefit of whatever improvements they might make in the soil. The principal objection he had to the Government proposal as it stood was that it hit the improving tenant. It did not hit the lazy and the worthless tenant. The man who laid out his money and labour in improving his land would be rented on his improvements, whereas the man who allowed his land to go to waste or only kept it in ordinary condition would have no additional tax put upon him for not improving what was called the inherent capacity of the soil. They should not hit the improving tenant. They should not make the enterprise and industry of the tenant the reason for allowing the landlord to levy additional rent. If they were to have peace and contentment in Ireland among the tenant-farmers it should be the policy of the Government to ensure to them, and to the improving tenants, respectively, that every spade they put into the land, that every improvement they made, that every bit of labour they expended on the improvement of the land, should be the same as putting money in the savings bank. He would press as strongly as he could upon the Government the acceptance of this reasonable and just Amendment. If this Amendment were rejected the Bill would be regarded in Ireland as worthless and useless, and as one that would benefit nobody but the enterprising attorneys.

Mr. McCARTAN said the Amendment carried out the intention of subsection (9) of Section 8 of the Land Act of 1881. Mr. Gladstone, in a speech which he made on the 9th of August 1881, said, "It is much better, I think, that those who make improvements should have the full benefit of the improvements." Was there a man in that House animated by a spirit of justice or honesty, who would deny that a person was entitled to the fruit of his toil? The 8th Section of the Act of 1881 said that no rent should be allowed or made payable in respect of any improvements made by the tenant or his predecessor in title. In Ireland it was absolutely necessary, not only in the interests of the landlord and of the tenant, but of the whole country, that there should be improvements made, and that the tenant should be encouraged to make them. The landlord never, or hardly ever, made improvements or contributed to them. Nearly all the improvements made in the soil had been made by the tenant, and surely he should be entitled to the benefit of those improvements. He had been present at some meetings in the North of Ireland since this Bill was produced, and there was at them a general consensus of opinion that, unless the question of improvements was safeguarded, or some provision made entitling the tenants to the enjoyment of those improvements without the landlord charging rent upon them, the Bill would be a rotten or a sham one. There was one unfortunate word dropped by the Chief Secretary in his speech. He said this would be confiscating the property of the landlord. He remembered Mr. Isaac Butt saying that in the course of a long experience he had never yet investigated a title which had not its origin in confiscation. All the property which was enjoyed at the present time by the landlords in Ireland rested on confiscation. He would appeal to the Chief Secretary, if he desired to make an honest effort to secure peace in Ireland and to do that which would in some degree satisfy the tenant, to accept the reasonable Amendment of his hon. Friend.

*Mr. Jasper Tully.*

Mr. DANE expressed his deep regret that the Chief Secretary had not found it possible to solve the conundrum created by the decision in "Adams v. Dunseath.' though he readily admitted that he believed the right hon. Gentleman had made a vigorous effort to do so. During the whole 14 years preceding the evidence given before the Select Committee last year by Lord Justice Fitzgibbon all the Judges, except in one instance in the case of Lord Chancellor Law, based their judgments in this matter affecting tenants' improvements on the precedent set by Adams *v.* Dunseath, and in the whole of that time there was not a single case of appeal. But the evidence of Lord Justice Fitzgibbon went in the teeth of the law as laid down in Adams *v.* Dunseath. The law on this subject had, therefore, been rendered most uncertain and unsatisfactory, and the question for the Committee at present was whether the Chief Secretary could now, or even on the Report stage, insert in the Bill a declaration of the law on the question. He had made inquiries, and had not found that any case had arisen in which the Commissioners had given a decision since Lord Justice Fitzgibbon gave his evidence There was nothing therefore to guide them, for the Bill was silent on the point as to how this important question was to be dealt with. ["Hear, hear!"] The matter was a small one—he said so advisedly—so far as the landlords of Ireland were concerned, but it was a very large and important one to the tenants, and especially to those tenants who held under what he might call rapacious landlords. ["Hear, hear?"] He regretted to say that there were many such cases, and, therefore, he repeated his regret that the Chief Secretary had been unable to do anything in the Bill to solve the difficulty, He could assure the right hon. Gentleman that it would give great satisfaction to the tenants of Ireland, who were undoubtedly looking forward to this Land Bill as a long step in the way of the settlement of the vexatious Land Question, if he could, in some way or other in the Bill, point out to the Sub-Commissioners what was to be their line of duty when a case of the kind referred to cropped up before them. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.) said there could be no doubt that the issue of this Amendment was of vital importance to the tenants of Ireland. If it were not accepted or agreed to the tenants would still labour under a very bitter injustice, and the whole country would be disappointed and aggrieved if it was rejected. With regard to the use of the word "confiscation" by the Chief Secretary, he could only say that no person who knew anything of the country would make use of such a remark in so far as it affected the tenants of Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"] He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would concede this reasonable Amendment. He was reared in Ireland and he had seen tenants re-claim bogs, and then had their rents increased. The cruelty tenant-farmers in Ireland had suffered was quite unknown to Members of this House.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he was the last person who would attempt to minimise the importance of the Amendment, the discussion of which had now been going on for two or two and-a-half hours. On the contrary, he recognised it was one in which Irish representatives were perfectly justified in taking an important part, but at the same time he appealed to them to come to a decision. He thought he was not wrong in saying that the arguments on both sides had now been used, and perhaps he would not exaggerate if he said they had been used more than once. ["Hear, hear."] Under these circumstances, and considering that there were still important points to be raised on the clause, that there were new clauses to be discussed, and, further, that unless the Bill passed through Committee to-night its passage would be embarrassed, if not imperilled, he thought he was not going beyond his duty in appealing to the Committee to bring the matter to the decision of a Division as soon as possible.

MR. DILLON said that after the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule they were at liberty to sit up to any hour, and he would prefer to sit up until 6 o'clock rather than there should be a bar to the discussion of this Amendment. He wished the Bill to go through to-night, but did not think two hours and a half was too long a time to spend upon an Amendment in which the whole of Ireland was deeply interested. The Amendment was one which was supported by the practically unanimous voice of the farmers of Ireland without distinction of political opinion. He could not but think that the speech delivered earlier in the discussion by the Leader of the House himself would create a very strong and marked impression in Ireland, for, in answer to the challenge thrown out to him by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Montrose Burghs, the right hon. Gentleman admitted that in his judgment agricultural rent on all the best lands in England and Scotland had entirely disappeared, and that which was at present paid was simply an interest, and a very moderate interest, on the outlay of the landlord. The Irish landlords had made no outlay, and the rent they were taking now was largely an interest on the outlay of the tenants. He had met landlords who said that they were getting nothing out of their English estates and were living upon what they got out of their Irish property. They were, in fact, receiving interest upon the outlay in capital and labour of their Irish tenants. The Amendment aimed at what was a wholesale system of confiscation. The doctrine of the inherent qualities of the soil was an absurd invention devised for the purpose of justifying the plunder and confiscation of the tenant's outlay. The dormant inherent quality of the land was worthless until it was vivified by the labour and capital of the tenant. That the result of the tenant's industry and expenditure should be confiscated by the landlord was monstrous. The Irish tenant, as was proved by the speech of the First Lord of the Treasury, was rented infinitely more highly in proportion to the value of the land than the English tenant. The Government were not redeeming their pledges to the Irish people, for through the mouths of the hon. Member for South Tyrone and other Members they had promised the Unionist farmers of Ulster that the improvements of the tenants would be completely protected by the law. [*Cheers.*] If this Amendment were rejected the tenant's improvements would be left at the mercy of the Sub-commissioners. The allowance to be made to a tenant in respect of his improvements would be a matter for the

Sub-Commissioners' discretion, and it should be remembered that the Government were packing the Commission with the friends of the landlords. ["Hear, hear!"] When it became known in Ireland that the Government repudiated the pledges which they had given there would be intense and widespread disappointment. [" Hear, hear ! "]

*THE SECRETARY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) said that the hon. Member for East Mayo had challenged any Ulster Member in that House to oppose this Amendment. The hon. Member, he felt sure, would do him the justice of admitting that he had opposed the principle of this Amendment from the day when he first concerned himself with the Irish Land question. [" Hear, hear ! "] In his opinion this was not as large a question as hon. Members opposite appeared to suppose. It was, in fact, one of the smallest questions in the whole business. Not only Mr. Justice Bewley, but every witness examined upon the point before the Select Committee on the Land Acts, stated distinctly that this was not a real but a purely academic question—[" Hear, hear ! "]—and that it only arose in connection with a very small number of cases, meaning thereby that the number of cases where the percentage allowed by the Commissioners did not cover the value of the improvements was very small indeed. He thought most people, tenant-farmers included, would be very well satisfied with 4, 5, or 6 per cent. return on their money. He was sure hon. gentlemen would admit that he, at all events, could not be accused of speaking in any spirit of hostility to the interests of the tenant-farmers. He would point out, in the second place, why he thought the position taken up by the Government upon this question was a sound position, and one which ought to be adhered to. Every land reformer—all the old land reformers, including Mr. Isaac Butt—never wavered from this position, that, whilst the tenant was entitled to the most absolute protection for his outlay and his improvements, the capabilities of the soil belonged to the landlord. When the Commissioners went to a farm to fix a fair rent they fixed the rent upon the land in the condition in which they found it. They did not ask what the land would produce if capital, skill, and science were brought to bear upon it; they did not take these things into account, but fixed the rent upon the land in the state in which they found it. But what happened when the rent was to be revised, if another farmer had come in and, with capital and skill, and had greatly improved the land? When the rent was first fixed the capabilities of the soil were not taken into account. [*Cries of* " Oh ! "] It was admitted by everybody that the Land Commission fixed the rent on the land as they found it. In the case that he was supposing the second tenant developed the latent capabilities of the land, and yet, he was told, the landlord was not to get anything for these capabilities, which everyone admitted primarily belonged to him, and that the tenant was to get the whole. The law as it stood at present, as it was explained by Lord Justice Fitzgibbon, in his opinion was perfectly fair and just. He admitted that for fourteen years, in the very small number of cases in which this residue had occurred by a mistake on the part of the Land Commission, it went to the landlord. But Lord Justice Fitzgibbon most distinctly stated before the Commission that that was not the law, nor was it the judgment in Adams *v.* Dunseath. The law now was that when the percentage had been allowed, 4, 5, or 6 per cent., and a residue arose, the Commissioners were to sit judicially upon it; they might give the whole to the landlord, or to the tenant, or distribute it as they thought just and right, taking all the circumstances of the case into account. It was his deliberate opinion, and he had said so in Ireland, that the law was just and fair to both parties, and he thought the Government were right in absolutely sticking to the present law on the subject.

*Mr. T. SHAW (Hawick Burghs) did not think any Member of the House, in view of the position occupied by the hon. Member, could regard with any other feelings than those of admiration the appearance which he had just made. They knew perfectly well the situation in which the hon. Member found himself. [*Ironical Nationalist cheers.*] He did not speak in any carping spirit, and he did not wish to import anything of a personal nature into the discussion. This question was one of principle, and should be determined on broad and general considerations of justice and equity, and not with mere regard to the number of cases which would be affected. His view was that an improvement in this case was whatever improved the land, and that an attempt to analyse the word would defeat its own object. It was the theory of the law and the policy of the State that wherever industry had been exercised in the execution of an improvement the fruit of that industry should be made secure to the industrious person. [*Nationalist cheers.*] The great question which lay at the bottom of the relations of landlord and tenant in Ireland was that in times past the tenants of Ireland had for generations so exercised their labour and expended their capital as to turn bog or forest land into arable land or good pasture. [*Nationalist cheers.*] And now at the end of the day they had a Government which was brought in by a large majority for the purpose of doing justice in the matter of the relations which subsisted between the two parties connected with Irish land tenure; and yet in the Measure which that Government had introduced for the purpose of carrying out their undertakings was a definition of the word "improvements" which entirely eviscerated all that rendered it valuable to the Irish tenant farmer. If the question involved were as small as the hon. Member for South Tyrone represented it to be, why did not the Government concede the point? If the Amendment would only affect a very small number of cases throughout the length and breadth of Ireland, why not accept the interpretation contained in the Amendment as to the signification of the word "improvements"? Under the last Government a Bill had been brought in which was based upon the principle that confiscation of the tenants' property in the land by law should cease. He asked the House, and he asked the Government, whether, even at this eleventh hour, they would concede this point to the Irish Party. The proposal made was a just one in all its aspects, for as the Bill stood there was a broad distinction between the principle on which the late Government had acted and that on which the present Government were acting. The present Government if they refused to accept his suggestion would be making it known that they were proposing to declare that confiscation of the tenants' property by law should not cease, but should continue. He hoped that he was not too late in asking the Government to reconsider their position in reference to this point. ["Hear, hear!"] After one of their own Members had stated that the question involved was a very small one, why did the Government allow the message to go to Ireland to-morrow that they had refused to accede to his appeal because they declined to admit that there was in the signification of the term "improvement," that which was the essence of the whole, namely, that the increased letting value of the land should go to the man whose industry, capital, ability and power had created that increased letting value? ["Hear, hear!"]

*MR. MICHAEL FLAVIN (Kerry, N.), in supporting the Amendment, said he might be met on the other side by the argument that rents had been reduced in Ireland. But had the rents been reduced to a degree corresponding with the fall in the price of agricultural produce. He would ask the hon. Member for Yarmouth what was his opinion upon that point. He found from authoritative statistics that the average reduction in the price of agricultural produce in Ireland since 1871, had been 28½ per cent., while the wages of the labourers whom the farmers employed had increased in the meantime by 33 per cent. Surely when the tenant farmer was pressed on both sides in this way he was entitled to a reduction of rent corresponding to the loss he sustained.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS called the right hon. Gentleman to order on the ground that he was going beyond the Amendment under consideration.

*MR. FLAVIN said that surely in the circumstances he was entitled to show to the Committee the loss that the tenant had sustained and the title he consequently had to a corresponding reduction of rent.

MR. T. J. CONDON (Tipperary, E.) said if the Committee rejected the

Amendment he warned the Government that their Land Bill would be worthless in the eyes of the Irish people.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 121; Noes, 180.—(Division List, No. 345).

The announcement of the numbers was received with Nationalist cheers.

*MR. SMITH-BARRY moved to insert at the end of Sub-section (1) after the word "custody,"—

"provided there shall not be taken into account, as part of the improvements made by the tenant, what is justly due to the inherent capabilities of the soil."

Those words were put down by the Chief Secretary himself a fortnight ago, but were recently withdrawn. They were used in the English Agricultural Holdings Act, and their application to landed property in Ireland was supported by a land reformer like Isaac Butt.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the Government could not accept the Amendment, for a very simple reason. The Committee had just declined to declare the law in one direction—in favour of the tenant; and it would not be fair to declare it in the other direction—in favour of the landlord.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said the Chief Secretary was in favour of the principle of the Amendment, as he had shown by putting a similar Amendment on the Paper; and the Leader of the House, speaking on the Second Reading of the Land Bill introduced by his right hon. Friend the Member for Montrose last Session, declared that the inherent capabilities of the soil ought to be taken into account when considering the value of the tenants' improvements. They had the Chief Secretary, with all his vast knowledge of Ireland—[*a laugh*]—and also the Leader of the House, who also had had long and happy experience of that country [*laughter*]—in favour of the Amendment. Yet for some reason or other, though they believed it to be perfectly just, they did not feel inclined somehow to insert it in their Bill. [*Laughter*.] He did not see that any Government ought to be afraid to do justice to any class if they thought justice was required. [*Ironical cheers.*] Ireland always wanted a grievance; at present the country was perfectly peaceful and at rest, and therefore a grievance must be got up, and the new grievance for Ireland was the inherent capabilities of the soil. [*Laughter.*] The eloquent and revolutionary Scotchman who had spoken in the Debate appeared to be a sympathiser with Jack Cade. ["Oh."] He believed Jack Cade was a respectable land reformer, whose views would compare favourably with those of hon. Gentlemen opposite. [*Laughter.*] But the theory of this eloquent and revolutionary Scotchman was this—that if a man worked a farm, naturally he ought to pay no rent for the land he worked. There was a simplicity about the theory which settled the land question at once. But what did an owner of land really possess? He generally got 14s. an acre for his land; and suppose he let some of it for that figure. If he insisted on the man paying him 14s. an acre every year for the next five years, was he a robber? [*Cheers.*] He held it was as much a bargain as if he let the man a horse. Suppose he hired out a horse for a year and at the end of the year the man brought back the horse and said, "Yes, I agreed to pay you £20 for the horse, but now I will pay you £5, for I have greatly increased his inherent capacity." [*Laughter.*] His own view of the inherent capabilities of the soil was this—if he had let land which if properly worked ought to bear a fair rent, and if the land was properly worked for a certain time, he said the tenant of that land got repaid for his work and ought to pay him a moderate rent. [*Cheers.*] At the end of the term the improved condition consequent on the inherent capacity of the land also belonged to him. [*Nationalist cries of* "No!"] Hon. Members said "No," because they did not believe that any land ought to belong to him. [*Laughter.*] That was where they were at issue. All he and his hon. Friends could do was to state what they believed to be their right. They believed the land to be theirs—[*cries of* "Oh!"]—and he hoped the House of Commons would leave it to be theirs, under the peculiar conditions, of course, on which it belonged to them. They owned it in a different way from that in which the land was owned in England; but they did own it, because if no rent was paid the land fell back into their hands. He regretted that the Government had not seen their way to insert in the Bill what they themselves had openly stated to be in their view only in accordance with common justice. [*Cheers.*]

MR. T. M. HEALY said that on those melancholy occasions, when the hon. and gallant Gentleman assisted at the wake of landlordism, it was always a satisfaction to find that his wit never failed. The hon. and gallant Gentleman would never spoil a wake. [*Cheers and laughter.*] If he had to die, he marched to death with military glee; and the hon. and gallant Gentleman was always an Irishman. ["Hear, hear!" *from* COLONEL SAUNDERSON.] His wit and his eloquence alike charmed the House and engaged even those of his countrymen who were most opposed to him. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. and gallant Gentleman had cited several parallels. But in 1886 the Scotch were especially careful not to import into the Crofters Act the terms of the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1883; and the Act which had been passed for Scotland gave the whole of the improvements to the tenant. He had had the painful duty of reading the Debates on the Act of 1870, and one thing Mr. Gladstone laid down most distinctly—that whereas previously the improvements had belonged to the landlord, the intention of Parliament was by that Act to reverse the principle, and give the improvements to the tenant. The hon. and gallant Gentleman had given an amusing illustration of his argument. He would give others. Did the papermaker, when his paper was made into bank-notes, get the inherent capacity of the rags? Did the man who sold pig-iron, when it was turned into watch-springs, get the inherent capacity of the pig-iron? [*Cheers.*] If the inherent capacity of the soil were followed out on the principles of the hon. and gallant Gentleman it would include the bread which was made from the wheat. These lettings were nominally made for 15 years, but in reality for ever. That was the tenants' contention. Irish landlords must remember that they were in an entirely different position from English landlords. The latter had spent millions on the soil; they were native proprietors; they belonged to the people, and were of the same blood and religion. But the Irish landlords came across from England and with a high hand took the land from the Irish chieftains who owned it and who had lived with the people and spent themselves in their service. And those wretched serfs had made the country what it was. [*Cheers.*] It was their country and their soil, and they had again and again challenged the landlords to show where they had made any improvements. The landlords had been condemned by Liberal Unionists like Lord Cowper, who stood to his guns even when attacked by the Duke of Argyll. Irishmen had established again and again, from the days of the Devon Commission until now, that the tenants of Ireland had made the improvements. The tenants spent weary days dragging manure and even the very soil on their backs up mountain sides to create holdings; they waded into the sea for seaweed to make manure for their holdings, and when facts like these were borne in mind it was idle to contend that those improvements were not due to the sweat and toil of these miserable serfs, but rather to the inherent capacity of those arid rocks. [*Cheers.*] He looked upon this clause as the low-water mark of acceptance, and he looked upon this Amendment as one which would make it impossible for the Irish Members to accept the Bill. [*Cheers.*] When the landlord let the soil, and it was easily drained, did hon. Gentlemen opposite contend that he did not take that fact into account when letting the land? If there was a lake, or a small cutting draining into a river, the fact that either existed in proximity to the holding was carefully taken into account. Those Gentlemen who had their interests attended to by agents and bog bailiffs, those Gentlemen who knew everything that was connected with the soil, and who, as Victor Hugo said, almost charged the tenants for the flies that the dogs ate—[*laughter*]—could not seriously tell him and his hon. Friends that they did not let the land with its inherent capacity. To the Irish landlords he said that though they had been at enmity for many years with their fellow-countrymen —["No,"]—yet whoever went over to

Ireland and breathed its air and mixed with its people, felt the pulse of Ireland burning in him. [*Cheers.*] In this business let the landlords agree with their fellow-countrymen, and for the sake of a few pounds give up their purple and fine linen, in order that their tenants and their wives might not walk in such mean rags. In discussing a question like this let Gentlemen who boasted of their high distinction in letting estates, remember that they were here arguing a question before Englishmen who had dealt liberally and even generously with their own estates. The question was a small one of a few pounds here and there, and he invited the landlords to seek for their reward not in percentages or in swollen rents, but in the consideration and feeling of the people among whom they lived. [*Cheers.*]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that those who were disposed to rake up the history of the past in Ireland, or even if they examined the present condition of agriculture in some districts of that country, would find many causes which he would not say justified, but might account for, the eloquent speech of the hon. Member who had just spoken. It was unhappily true that the history of Ireland had been signalised generation after generation by successive confiscations. It was unhappily true that there were causes of difference—for which he did not believe that the present generation or any recent generation of Irish landlords were responsible—whether the practice in Ireland had been for the tenants rather than the landlords to make the improvements — fruitful of evil in the sister island. While it was easy for the hon. Member, who he knew felt strongly on the subject, and dealt with it in a manner which made his observations deeply impressive, to dwell on those aspects of Irish agriculture and Irish history, he would most earnestly impress on the Committee the absolute necessity in the interests of the Bill and in the interests of the classes, whether tenants or landlords—who, he believed, had much to gain from the Bill—of rejecting the Amendment now before the Committee, as it had rejected the Amendment which immediately preceded it. The Amendment which the Committee had been debating and had just divided upon was an Amendment which had for its object to give to the tenant the whole of the inherent capabilities of the soil. The object of the present Amendment was to give to the landlord the whole of the inherent capabilities of the soil—["No, no!"]—to give to the landlord, in the words of the Amendment, "what is justly due to the inherent capabilities of the soil." They had attempted, as the Chief Secretary had told the Committee, to formulate in language the division between the two classes interested in agriculture in Ireland and the proper method on which the division of profits on any improvement should be made. They had not succeeded, and they felt they must leave the law to the judgment of the Courts, guided as they had been by such evidence as had been given by Lord Justice Fitzgibbon and others. They had opposed, in the interests of the landlords, the Amendment on which they had just divided; and they opposed this Amendment, if not in the special interests of the tenants, in the interest of the Bill, refusing to commit themselves to the apparently hopeless task of formulating such a scheme to the Court. They believed that if they made such an attempt they would be foredoomed to disaster. They believed that if Gentlemen on that side of the House attempted to embark on the task, they would inflict upon the landlord class an immense injury. Whether the task were possible or not he was sure it ought not to be attempted in that Bill, and he earnestly urged that the Amendment should not be pressed, as he believed the interests of the landlords would not be served by it

MR. CARSON said he did not rise to advise his friends to persist in going on with the Amendment. He only rose to say that it occurred to him that it was an extraordinary thing that in one year all their views were changed because they had removed from one side of the House to the other. [*Laughter and* "Hear, hear!"] When the Member for Montrose brought in his Bill last year he opposed it, and he was glad to say he had no greater supporter than the Leader of the House. [*Laughter and cheers*]. But they moved rapidly in these matters. In 1870, Mr. Isaac Butt said that no one would think of alleging that the inherent capabilities of the soil were the property of the tenant. In 1883, on the Agricultural Holdings Bill, Mr. Shaw Lefevre said that no one would contend they were other than the property of the landlord. Again, Lord Herschell said practically the same thing. How were they to account for these transitions?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: What transition?

MR. CARSON: I call it a transition when an hon. Member at one time professes certain principles as those that ought to be embodied in the Bill; and, when he is on the other side of the House, thinks it is not necessary that they should be put in the Bill of his own Government. [*Cheers.*] At the present moment, the right hon. and learned Member proceeded, the law was absolutely undefined, and when they asked the House to define it, they were told that it was impossible of definition, and that it is much better to leave the land as it stood. [The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: "Hear, hear."] All he was attempting to do was to draw the attention of the Committee to what even Nationalist Members would admit—namely, that they were advancing at a pretty steady rate to the time which apparently would come when there would be no acknowledgment whatever of the landlord's rights to those things which had hitherto been admitted to be his absolute property. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. J. MORLEY said the right hon. and learned Gentleman had recalled some of the episodes of only 12 months ago. He was only too glad that the Leader of the House, and Gentlemen who sat beside him, including the Solicitor General for Ireland, and he was afraid he must add the hon. Member for South Tyrone, had been reminded of their attitude towards the Bill which he introduced last year. They had forgotten the arguments they then used against that Bill. [The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: "Not a bit."] He understood that the hon. Member for South Tyrone had advanced a doctrine upon the subject of increased letting value which he had never understood the hon. Member to hold.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL: My right hon. Friend forgets that this was one of the points on which I had a perfectly clear record, both in Ireland and here; I have never been able to hold any opinions other than that to which I have to-night given expression.

MR. J. MORLEY said he had always understood his hon. Friend to have gone to his constituents and protested that he would be no party to any legislation which did not give the fullest protection to the improvements of the tenants.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL: That is exactly my position. I am now, and have always been, sincerely desirous of giving the tenant everything that is his. I have resolutely refused in my own constituency and here to give him anything that is not his.

MR. J. MORLEY said that, remembering the services which his hon. Friend had rendered on the Land Acts Committee and afterwards, he was most unwilling to impugn him personally. But he could not forget that the hon. Member, after the Bill of 1895 was produced, went to his constituents and advised them to support that Bill. That Bill, he was glad to say, contained the doctrine which the Chief Secretary had first, in a sort of way, inserted in this Bill and then had dropped. The Leader of the House could not take any very strong ground in his reply to the right hon. Member for Trinity College, for in the first draft clause the very proposal embodied in the Amendment was advanced. Of course he was entirely with the Government now, and rejoiced that they had dropped the doctrine of "inherent capability." [Mr. G. BALFOUR: They have not dropped it.] Was it not in the draft clause and have they not now abandoned it? ["Hear, hear!"] He did not himself care for pressing these personal and Party points. [*Laughter.*] But the Liberal Government suffered from them last year. They were taunted with "prairie value." Now it was the turn of Gentlemen opposite. They had abandoned their old doctrine and had taken that of their opponents. He did not care to press the point; he knew what Irish politics were. [*Laughter.*] He had not forgotten 1885, and this was the same story to-day. Right hon. Gentlemen last year took up a certain line, but now, when they were in Government, they found themselves confronted with difficulties just as their opponents did. New aspects of the Irish land question forced themselves upon the Government, who had most honourably come round to the views of the Opposition, and they had better admit it. [Hear, hear!"] There were good historic and economic reasons why an Irish landlord should not do all the things that the landlord did on an English estate. The holdings in Ireland were very small, and if the landlord had done for each that which the English landlord had done he would have been obliged to have been a millionaire. ["Hear, hear"!] That excluded the Irish landlord from any moral criminality for not making the improvements—he could not have done them. The fact remained that he had not made the improvements. He did not agree that the Irish landlord was a mere rent-charger; he was much more; but they would never get to the root of the difficulty until they recognised to the full the identity between the position of the Irish tenant and the copyhold tenant under the old English tenure. ["Hear, hear!"] The misfortune of the present moment was that the Government, having the opportunity of going to the root of this question, had shirked it and had left out all reference to these burning issues. ["Hear, hear!"] It was as sure as anything possibly could be that within two or three years from now they would have another Irish Land Bill, and the hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh, and the right hon. Member for Dublin University knew quite well that even if the present Government were in office they would have one more slice taken off the Irish landlords. ["Hear, hear!"] He thought the hon. and gallant Gentleman might well listen to what had been said by the hon. Member for North Louth—namely, that the landlords would have got far better terms with their own countrymen if they would only have met them upon equal conditions than they would get out of that House, which, he might say without offence, was very ignorant of all details of the Irish land question. [An HON. MEMBER: "So are you"; *and cries of* "Order!"] Some Gentleman said so was he. But he was a most admirable example. There was he, an English Member—or rather, a Scotch Member now [*laughter*]; at any rate, a British, and not an Irish, Member. He devoted 36 or 37 days to sitting on a Committee endeavouring to master the intricacies of this question. He had been responsible for Irish administration, and yet some Gentleman said, and said only too truly, that he was no master of the Irish land question. But if he was not master of it, how much less were Gentlemen opposite? [*Cheers.*] He admitted it, but, if he knew little of it, the hon. Gentleman who interrupted him probably knew nothing. [*Cheers.*] The Government had at last come round to the view which the Liberal Party and the Liberal Government held and expressed last year, and he was glad at the conversion. ["Hear, hear!"] At the same time, he had some sympathy with Gentlemen sitting below the Gangway at the way in which they had been handled. [*Cheers.*]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY, who was received with cheers, said, I do not think it worth while, and I am certainly not willing, to reply at length to the right hon. Gentleman opposite; but I confess that when I have to deal with a speech like that delivered by my right hon. and learned Friend below the Gangway, the case is different. My right hon. and learned Friend and I have been political colleagues, we have fought side by side in times of stress, I have regarded him in times past with feelings of absolute confidence, I have felt that on his judgment I could rely; but when he turns round and, on the subject of this Bill, makes an attack upon one who is certainly an old colleague and who I hope he will still consider an old Friend, I admit I cannot allow his observations to pass without some remarks. [*Cheers.*] He accuses me and the Government of which I form a part of having changed our opinions in the last year, and of having, as he would generously imply, for the sweets of office, given up opinions which we once held and once defended from this side of the House. ["No" *and cheers*.] Then, indeed, I feel that some explanation is due, if not to him, at all events to others who supported both him and me in those times and in times still more difficult. [*Cheers.*] Now, what are the facts of the case? The right hon. Gentleman opposite has claimed us as converts to his Bill, as having accepted the principles embodied in his Bill, and he endorses the view of my right hon. and learned Friend below the Gangway that we have come round to opinions we combated last year and that we are converts to doctrines we repudiated twelve months ago. There is not a word of truth in that. [*Cheers.*] If we had become converts to the view of the right hon. Gentleman opposite we should have accepted the Amendment we have just rejected. [*Cheers.*] What is our position? We have not committed ourselves to the doctrine of the right hon. Gentleman opposite and his friends or to any other doctrine in this matter. We have not embodied any doctrine in this measure. Are we to be accused of having repudiated our former opinions because we do not formulate a doctrine on this subject in this Bill. [*Cheers.*] We have refused, either on the invitation of hon. Gentlemen below the Gangway on that side of the House or on this side of the House, to be tempted into the impossible task of dealing with a definition of this difficult question, but we have not adopted the doctrine advocated by the right hon. Gentleman opposite and his friends last year, and we have committed ourselves to no opinions, so far as I am aware, which we repudiated when the right hon. Gentleman's Bill was before the House. [*Cheers.*] I am perfectly certain that, though I may have in debate repudiated, as I shall be prepared to repudiate now, the doctrine that the tenants are to obtain every advantage which they might obtain from expenditure on the soil, no matter how far those advantages may be in excess of any rational or reasonable profit from the capital or labour expended by the tenant, I maintain now, as a practical politician, as one having something to do with the conduct of a great Measure before Parliament, as one knowing what Parliament can do and what Parliament cannot do, as one knowing what will help this Bill to pass and what will not help it to pass, as one knowing what will overload the Bill and what will not—I say we should be perfectly insane to embark on this problem, and therefore I refuse to be dragged into a declaration of opinion which requires us to formulate Amendments to this clause which I firmly believe will ruin the Bill. [*Cheers.*] Is there in that any political dishonour or anything that deserves the accusation of my right hon. and learned friend? [*Cheers.*] I do not ask the House now in voting against this Amendment to express its dissent from the principles embodied in the Amendment, any more than I ask a dissent from the opinion expressed on the last Amendment. I ask the House to refuse an opinion, one way or the other on a question which I say ought not to be dealt with in this Bill if it is to have any chance of passing into law. That is the doctrine I lay before the House. It is the doctrine I stand by. It is a straightforward doctrine. It is honourable. It is consistent with everything I have said or done, and I trust that every follower of the Government will support the Government in this clause in the course they are going to pursue. [*Cheers.*]

Amendment negatived amid loud cheers.

MR. DALY moved to omit Sub-section (3).

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the Government could not accept the Amendment. If the view of the hon. Member were carried out, it would certainly lead to litigation in every case where there was a contract. Where the tenant actually made an improvement in pursuance of a contract, it must be held that the improvement was made by arrangement with the landlord, and that the tenant should be deemed to have been compensated.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that if this sub-section stood alone, he would have considerable objection to it, not in every case, but as affecting some cases. But if it were qualified by Subsection (7), then he would take a different view of it. This was a sub-section purporting to deal with improvements effected in pursuance of a contract entered into by a tenant for valuable consideration, and he quite conceded that in the majority of cases, if a tenant had entered into a contract for valuable consideration, and had received that valuable consideration, he was equitably paid and compensated for the improvements, and was not entitled to, and ought not to get, credit for them. But it all turned on the question, what was valuable consideration? In an earlier part of the Bill the Government defined it as money or money's worth, and if he thought those words were synonymous with money or money's worth, he should not say anything more on the Amendment. In Sub-section 7, in the majority of cases, valuable consideration was practically defined to mean money or money's worth; but in the last three lines of it there were words used which practically said that for the purpose of the present sub-section valuable consideration was not to mean money or money's worth. He would like to have some information from the right hon. Gentleman as to how this sub-section was affected by Sub-section 7.

MR. J. MORLEY suggested that the substitution of the words "adequate consideration" for "valuable consideration" would meet the difficulty.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said he did not think that the alteration was necessary.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL said it appeared to him that there was a great deal in the Amendment. The Attorney General was perfectly aware that, if a party entered into a contract to give a lease of a farm, the giving of the lease to the tenant might be held to be "a valuable consideration." If that were so, what protection was there for the tenant in his improvements? There was something in the minds of the framers of the Bill which he could not quite understand, because originally the words were, "money or money's worth." Why had they now substituted the ambiguous words, "valuable consideration"? The stipulation as to valuable consideration would be satisfied by £1, even though the improvements represented a sum of £500. In his opinion the provisions of Sub-section (7) of the clause would leave the tenants unprotected, and he therefore urged the Committee to be very cautious before they refused to adopt this very reasonable Amendment.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND pointed out that leases that were silent about improvements would not come within Sub-section (3). The operation of the sub-section was and must be confined to cases where in the body of the contract it was stipulated that the tenant should make the improvements.

MR. T. M. HEALY thought that when words like those of the Amendment had already been abandoned by the Government, it was a hopeless action to propose them anew. By valuable consideration, however, he trusted more was intended than some merely nominal consideration. The words "valuable consideration" were of the most rigid and inelastic character. No one who had witnessed, he was going to say the tragic, but at any rate the dramatic scene they had passed through could fail to be aware of the extreme struggles which were made and the conflicting opinions which the Ministry and those responsible for the Bill were endeavouring to accommodate. He did not think it was in any sense a discreditable circumstance. They had seen these mutations alike in Irishmen and Englishmen, in Liberals and Conservatives, in the search for proper words. He had suggested the words "adequate consideration," and thought that this would be a more equitable phrase. He urged the Government not to bind themselves in any hard-and-fast sense to the term "valuable consideration." He wished to express his thanks honestly and earnestly to the First Lord of the Treasury for the speech which he had delivered. Speaking for himself, and recognising as he had the difficulties of his position, that speech had made upon his mind a very deep impression, and he fully believed that it marked an epoch for the Government of this country to detach itself, to some extent at all events, from the extreme territorial position in Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment negatived.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved in Sub-section (4) to omit the word "valuable," and to insert instead thereof the word "adequate."

MR. GERALD BALFOUR could not accept the Amendment, because it would involve the introduction into the Bill of a new legal expression. The expression "valuable consideration" had a well-known legal meaning, which it would be unwise to set aside by the adoption of any other expression.

MR T. M. HEALY said that he would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment for the time, but should raise the question at a subsequent period.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**MR. DILLON**, who had an Amendment upon the Paper to substitute in Sub-section (4) the words "money or money's worth" in place of the words "valuable consideration," said that after what had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman he felt that it would be useless to press the Amendment, and therefore he would not move it. He would, however, move his next Amendment, which was to omit from Sub-section (6) the words:—

> "Provided that the rent may be allowed in respect of an improvement made by the tenant if made twenty years before the passing of the said Act, and not being a permanent building or reclamation of waste land."

**MR. GERALD BALFOUR** said that permanent buildings and waste lands were provided for already. However far back they were erected or reclaimed, the tenant could claim for them. In regard to other improvements, the tenant was to have the advantage of them if made subsequent to 1850. It would be clear that that would include almost all improvements which in 1896 were of present value. The Government had gone as far as could reasonably be expected of them in extending the period to 1850.

**MR. FLYNN** contended the sub-committee would hold that it should be utterly waste land before the tenant could get any benefit whatever. If it was not utterly waste land, but at any time liable to the interpretation that 50 years ago it had been reclaimed to some extent, then these tenants, who to his knowledge had reclaimed the whole mountain-side, would be excluded, and they would be liable to have a rent fixed. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman if it was not possible to find some other definition of waste land.

**MR. GERALD BALFOUR** said he was afraid it would be an extremely thorny subject to embark upon.

**MR. McCARTAN** supported the Amendment, which he said would affect no part of Ireland more than Ulster.

Amendment negatived.

**MR. T. M. HEALY** moved, in the same sub-section, after the word "permanent," to insert the word "work." The Amendment, he said, was purely verbal, and was designed to meet the case of embankments or sea walls which had been erected in so many parts of the country, and such works as the scouring and deepening of mines, on which large sums of money had been expended, and which could hardly be called a building.

**MR. GERALD BALFOUR** thought it quite reasonable that a solid embankment or sea wall should be considered a building, and he could meet him by proposing in the definition clause that a building should include any embankment or sea wall.

**MR. T. M. HEALY** offered to substitute for "work," any "permanent structure."

**MR. CARSON** said he had known cases in Ireland where great difficulty had arisen in construing a "building," and so far as he was concerned he had not the least objection to "structure."

**MR. GERALD BALFOUR** expressed his willingness to insert in the definition clause "structure or sea wall."

Amendment negatived.

**MR. DILLON** moved, in Sub-section (7), to leave out all the words after the words "tenant of any improvement." The words he proposed to leave out were, he considered, dangerously wide. There was a case in Waterford of an unfortunate tenant who took a holding at 6d. an acre, and so improved it that the rent was raised to 5s. an acre, and it was held that the tenant had been compensated by enjoying the land for 6d. an acre. In all such cases the tenant laid out an enormous amount of labour in reclaiming mountain-land. Their doctrine of "enjoyment" had robbed many tenants in Ireland of the allowance to which they were entitled for their improvements.

**MR. GERALD BALFOUR** said that according to this sub-section mere enjoyment was not a kind of compensation. If a tenant had enjoyed for a great number of years land at 6d. an acre, and at the end it was worth 5s. or 8s. an acre, it would be difficult for any Court not to hold that he had by that enjoyment, coupled with the low rent, been compensated more or less for his improvement.

**MR. DILLON** said the question arose, "what was the original condition of the land and the amount of money spent on it by the tenant?" His experience was that in most reclamation holdings the tenant never got adequate interest for the outlay of his labour and capital. In no case would any of those holdings pay a man to reclaim them as capitalist undertakings. He believed that the doctrine of enjoyment had acted very unfairly and unjustly.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. M. HEALY moved to omit the following words from Sub-section (7):—

"and in the case of an improvement made in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration, such intention shall be implied where not expressed."

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL hoped the Government would yield on this point. He had formed the opinion, after careful study, that this clause would give rise to more litigation and more heart-burning between landlord and tenant than almost any other part of the Bill. All a landlord would have to do, unless this Amendment was accepted, would be to produce a lease, such as the leases on the Kingston Estate, referred to by an hon. Member, and the moment that was done the function of the Commissioner ceased and he must at once imply that there was an intention which would amount to a contract debarring a tenant from the benefit of the Act.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said no such difficulty as that just suggested would arise. The object of the clause was to enact that whenever a tenant made an agreement in connection with improvements he should be bound by that agreement. It only became necessary to introduce the words expressed or implied in order to guard against any reduction or abatement being regarded as compensation, unless the reduction or abatement was made for the purpose of compensating the tenant for the improvement he had made. Otherwise it would be perfectly possible for a landlord to fall back on any reduction he might make owing to agricultural depression as compensation for a tenant's improvement.

Amendment negatived.

*Mr. Dillon.*

*MR. SMITH-BARRY moved, in sub-section (7), to leave out the words "entered into for valuable consideration." The hon. Member expressed the opinion that under the clause as drafted hardship might arise to the landlord. He instanced the case of a holding upon which a house had been erected, and upon which the tenant had to pay rent. By the wording of the section he would now be able to claim that the building was erected in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration, which, though not expressed was implied, and although up to the present he had been charged rent upon it, he would, by the clause as it stood, be no longer liable to pay such rent. He was sure that was not the intention of the Government, but, as that might be the effect of the section in its actual operation, some amendment was necessary to obviate what might be an injustice to the landlord.

MR. CARSON said, that so far as he could see, the object of the Amendment was only to make clear the meaning of the clause. There was no difference between the intention of the Government and the intention of the Mover of the Amendment. So far as he could see, it would be impossible almost to construe the sub-section unless some alteration in this direction was made.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that no attempt had been made to define the words "valuable consideration." It was simply stated that in certain circumstances valuable consideration should not be held to have been given. He was afraid that if the words were left out great confusion might arise.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that the words "money or money's worth" were omitted from the Bill on the suggestion of Mr. Justice Bewley, who was really responsible for all the Government Amendments.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL said it was new to him from a constitutional point of view that any judge of the High Court could be consulted on a question of *haute politique* such as this, and he thought his hon. and learned Friend the Member for North Louth must have been misinformed.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he was not misinformed. He asserted that Mr. Justice Bewley, in concert with the

Government, went over the original draft of this Bill, sent over Amendments, and that the Amendments had been accepted, and that the omission of "money and money's worth" was due to Mr. Justice Bewley, and the insertion of the words "valuable consideration" was also due to him.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** said, in justice to Mr. Justice Bewley he ought to contradict that statement. "Valuable consideration" was put in on his initiative, and those words, with all their faults, were entirely due to the humble individual who was now addressing the Committee.

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** said that, with great deference to the right hon. Gentleman, and with a full acceptance of what he said, he should very much like to see the copy of the Bill as marked by Mr. Justice Bewley and the Amendments he sent over to the Government.

Amendment negatived.

**The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND** moved, in Sub-section (7), to leave out the word "intention" and to insert instead thereof the word "object."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR** (Liverpool, Scotland) moved, in Sub-section (8), after the words "sub-sections" to insert the word "one," in order to provide that Sub-section (1), as well as Sub-sections (2) and (4), of Section (5) of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, should not have effect in the case of applications to fix a fair rent. As he understood it, the effect of the acceptance of the Amendment would be simply to extend to estates bought under the Landed Estates Court the same law as was now applied to estates that had remained in the hands of the old landlords. As the clause stood without this section, the gombeen man, the speculative buyer who had gone through the Landed Estates Court and bought property, would be placed in a far better position than any other landlord in the country, because, in the case of the ordinary landlord, the presumption would be in favour of the tenant, while in the case of the landlord who had bought in the Estates Court or by private contract the presumption would be in favour of the landlord. He was entirely unable to see the grounds for that distinction in favour of perhaps the worst class of landlord.

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** supported the Amendment and pointed out that, in the original draft of the Act of 1870, not one single one of these exceptions down to six existed in Clause 5. They were inserted in consequence of the Debate on the Second Reading, when the landlords took the point that the presumption in the case of tenancies where they had been purchased in the Landed Estates Court ought to be different to that in other cases. Why, he would ask, should anyone seek to secure for the gombeen man, who purchased under the Landed Estates Act, a presumption which no Irish gentleman could secure for himself? He could understand the landlords fighting for their old historical position, but he would urge the landlord Party in that House not to insist on putting themselves lower down in the scale of humanity than the gombeen man.

***The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND** said the Government could not accept the Amendment. The reason why the presumption that all improvements were made by the tenant was not extended to cases in which the owners were purchasers of the Landed Estates Court was that every right which the tenant had was supposed to have been set out in the agreement. It was well known that every right which every such tenant had was supposed to be thus set out, and that it was supposed he had no other right. To give him now benefit of the presumption that all improvements were made by him would be to throw on the purchaser a burden he would be unable to bear, as he had no materials to prove what took place before his purchase.

**Mr. DILLON** asked what right, if this were refused, the tenants under the Landed Estates Court could have to the claim to have fair rents fixed?

***The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND** said the tenant would have that right under the general law of the land.

**Mr. DILLON** said, why not confer the right now? They were going to perpetuate a decision in favour of land-jobbers and, as they were called in Ireland, land sharks.

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL did not think the Committee understood the effect of the clause as it stood. If Subsection 8 were left in its present form it would be inferred by the Courts that Sub-sections 1, 3, 5 and 6, Section 5, of the Act of 1870 applied to improvements under this Bill, the well-known maxim of law, *expressio unius est exclusio alterius.* Suppose the case of an estate sold ten years ago; the improvements made by the tenants on the estate previously to such sale would be shut out.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said that they had spoken hitherto of estates that had changed hands in the Landed Estates Court, but, unless the Amendment were accepted, estates would be excluded which had passed simply by private contract from one man to another. The result would be that any man in Ireland who had bought an estate would be freed from the presumption with regard to improvements to which other landlords who held land that had been in their families for generations would be subject. He did not see why the distinction in favour of these landlords should be maintained. Parliament had the right *a fortiori* to take away from these landlords this small and entirely unjust privilege of having a presumption in their favour when it was against the interests of others.

Mr. KNOX said it would have been absolutely impossible for the tenant to get anything about his improvement one way or the other on his rent. As a matter of fact, when Lord Waterford was selling his estate — in Derry, he believed—the tenants there tried to get what they considered to be their rights under the Ulster custom on the rental and went to the Court of Appeal, but it was held by the Court not to be the sort of thing that was to go with the rent. If the tenant had gone to the Landed Estates Court and tried to get his rent amended by the insertion of his improvements, he would have been told that the statement was entirely irrelevant, and that the improvements, whoever made them, belonged to the landlord. This was a matter which the tenant could not have got from the Landed Estates Court, and, therefore, the purchaser would not in any way be prejudiced.

Mr. T. M. HEALY wished to ask whether the old Irish landlords opposite really desired to identify themselves with the land jobber who had bought bankrupt estates in the Irish Landed Estates Court for the purpose of exacting unfair rents from the tenants. It was this class of man who had brought the land laws about the heads of the Irish landlords, and who had brought the Land League into existence. Where did such men as Scully get their land from? Why did not the old landlords cut themselves apart from these State gombeen men? ["Hear, hear!"]

Colonel SAUNDERSON said that personally he had no objection to the Amendment. [*Nationalist cheers.*] There might be a case in which a man might have purchased land at a fair price in the Landed Estates Court, and have spent money upon the property and made it more valuable, and it would be hard upon him that he should be deprived of his property. He, however, admitted that, as a general rule, the improvements on Irish land were effected by the tenants and not by the landlords. [*Nationalist cheers.*] As he had already said, he had no objection to the Amendment. [*Nationalist cheers.*]

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD (Cambridge) said that he entirely agreed with what had been said by his hon. and gallant Friend near him. [*Nationalist cheers.*] The tenants upon the estates which had been purchased in the Landed Estates Court were in a worse position than those upon the old estates. [*Nationalist cheers.*] He might take that opportunity of telling the hon. Member for Louth that there were some Irish landlords who did not date their estates from the Cromwellian settlement. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Sir J. COLOMB said that, if the Amendment were carried, they would be breaking Parliamentary titles and the conditions under which titles were conveyed.

*Mr. SMITH-BARRY agreed with the hon. Member for Louth that land-jobbers had brought much mischief on the landlords, but that the proposals before the Committee required further consideration.

Mr. DANE appealed to the Attorney General whether this would not be breaking Parliamentary title at all, but only doing an act of the simplest justice?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that, in all the circumstances, he would accept the Amendment. [*Nationalist cheers.*]

MR. T. M. HEALY moved, in the same line, after the word "two," to insert the word "three." He said the section which he sought to maintain should not be applied was the section which provided that the improvements which were made upwards of 20 years before the passing of the Act should be excluded from consideration. He should be quite satisfied if the Government recognised that buildings stood in a wholly different position from any other class of improvements, and limited it to buildings.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said it was not correct to describe this as a 20-years' limit. It was a 46-years' limit. The presumption, according to the Bill, was to hold in favour of the tenants in respect of tenants' improvements made subsequent to 1850. It was only in the case of improvements made before that date that there was no presumption in favour of the tenants. But they had to consider not only the desirability of the improvements, and the difficulty of proving who made them, but also whether, since they were made, the tenancy had not changed in such a way that the subsequent tenant could not properly be held to be the predecessor in title.

MR. MAURICE HEALY pointed out that the Amendment would not operate where there was a change of tenancy.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR admitted that that was so, but he contended that in these matters it was necessary to have some sort of limit behind which it should not go, and it did not appear to him that 46 years was an unreasonable limit.

MR. MAURICE HEALY, in supporting the Amendment, moved by Mr. T. M. Healy, that Sub-section (3) of Section 5 of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, should not have effect in the case of applications to fix a fair rent, pointed out that the buildings were often more than 46 years old, and the older they were the more difficult it was for the tenant to prove his case.

MR. DILLON spoke in a similar sense, and said that while, where buildings were erected or reclamations made before 1850, the tenant was put upon his proof, it was almost impossible for the tenant to produce it. The sub-section was one of the most unreasonable restrictions in the Bill, and he hoped the Government would give way.

MR. T. M. HEALY, while insisting on the importance of the Amendment and reserving his right to raise the question in a different form, asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR moved to insert, as a proviso:—

"In the province of Ulster, a holding shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be subject to the Ulster tenant-right custom."

He stated that an Amendment to the same effect stood in the name of two of the Government's staunchest supporters, and he was certain also that the Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. T. W. Russell), if he were free from the trammels and limitations of office, would give the Amendment his strongest and most earnest support. This support from the Government's own side showed that tenant opinion in Ireland was unanimous in its favour, altogether irrespective of political party. It should be remembered that to a large extent the Ulster custom which was intended to be conferred had been destroyed by legislation. The object of the Amendment was to meet an evil admitted by everyone and to throw on the landlords the burden of responsibillty in respect of proof.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that he had explained in introducing the Bill why it was impossible for the Government to accept a proviso of this kind. The Ulster custom was not a uniform custom, and the acceptance of any proviso of this description would involve an attempt to define the Ulster custom. A good many Land Acts had been passed during the last few years, but in none of them had an attempt been made to define that custom. To insert the Amendment would, he believed, act to the detriment of the tenants of Ulster rather than to their benefit. Where the custom existed safeguard it by all means, but this was not a reason for assuming that it existed where it had not been proved to exist.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said he had a strong impression that the right hon. Gentleman pledged himself not only to safeguard it but to enlarge its rights and privileges.

MR. RENTOUL showed that in the Law Courts there was practically no definition of "fraud" and "cruelty," and in view of the fact that there were many important subjects capable of being dealt with without definition, it would be impossible in each individual case to ascertain the existence of the Ulster custom.

MR. PINKERTON was sorry that the Member for South Tyrone was not allowed to speak again. [*Laughter.*] By passing the Amendment they would simply legalise the Ulster custom on the small estates. On the large estates, of course, there was no difficulty. The onus of proof would be thrown on the landlord.

MR. KNOX agreed that with large estates there was no difficulty. Now, when every tenant had a right of free sale, and when even Ulster custom tenants habitually sold out not under their Ulster custom right, but under their statutory right of free sale, it had become increasingly difficult to prove in the case of smaller estates that the Ulster custom existed. The difficulty therefore was a practical one, and just such a difficulty as ought to be met by an Amendment like that of his hon. Friend which created a presumption. Unless something of this sort was done, the tenants in all the westerly counties of Ulster would lose advantages they had hitherto possessed owing to the difficulty in obtaining proof.

*MR. JORDAN said the Leader of the House had given a promise that he would safeguard the interests of the Ulster tenants. Was he going to run away from his pledge?

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND said the undertaking of the First Lord of the Treasury was to introduce a clause protecting tenants holding under the Ulster custom from being in any way prejudiced by the provisions of the Bill. He did not undertake to vary the law as to the Ulster custom. The clause carrying out his right hon. Friend's promise, which would be moved at the proper time, was as follows:—

> "Nothing herein contained shall prejudice or affect any right or benefit exercised or enjoyed in or by virtue of any of the usages legalised in the first and second sections of the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1870."

As to the Amendment now before the Committee, he pointed out that it had been found impossible to define the Ulster tenant-right custom, because, as Sir Edward Sullivan pointed out in his judgments in several cases, it varied very much on estates which were only a few miles distant from each other. Everybody would be anxious to provide that the Ulster custom should apply to all holdings. It was impossible, however, to effect such a result, as they could not define it, inasmuch as it was not uniform.

MR. McCARTAN hoped his hon. Friend would press the Amendment to a Division, because the clause which had been read out by the Attorney General for Ireland did not even refer to the Ulster custom at all, but referred to that unfortunate word which had done so much harm in Ulster, namely the word "usages." If the Ulster custom had been particularised in the Act of 1870 they would hear no more of "usages" now. That word had been legalised so that every kind of infringement might be committed on the Ulster custom. As to the contention of the Attorney General that it was impossible to define the Ulster custom, he had to say that that custom was well-known throughout the whole province of Ulster, and would be dearly fought for if it was attempted to be varied in any way. It always included fair rents, tenant-right, and free sale, so that there was no necessity for any definition of it. So far as he knew, the Ulster custom was admitted in every Land Court in the province, and why should it not be presumed that the custom existed until the contrary was proved?

MR. DANE said that this was a most important matter to the tenants of Ulster. They stood on a different footing to tenants in the rest of Ireland. It was of the greatest possible importance to them that the Amendments should be accepted having regard to the 4th Clause which would apply all over Ireland including Ulster. There was no opposition to this Amendment from the representatives of the landlords below the Gangway.

Colonel SAUNDERSON: I object to it very strongly.

Mr. DANE: said that that was the first note of objection from that quarter.

Colonel SAUNDERSON: The custom has never existed on my estate.

Mr. DANE: That made it all the more important that the Amendment should be accepted. Every tenant on the hon. and gallant Gentleman's estate would be met with the objection that the custom never existed. He contended that in Ulster the onus ought not to be on the tenant to show that the custom existed, but with the landlord to show that it did not exist. He had hoped that there would be no opposition from the hon. and gallant Gentleman and his friends and he still hoped they would not oppose the Amendment. He quite admitted that it was absolutely impossible to define the custom, but no definition was necessary. All they asked here was that in the province of Ulster some usage should be deemed to exist.

Colonel SAUNDERSON said he did not deny the existence of the Ulster custom, but he would point out that in a very considerable part of Ulster it did not prevail. He thought it would be very unfair if they extended the Ulster custom and bound it by a geographical limit. Why did not they propose to extend it all over Ireland. His objection to the Amendment was the impossibility of defining what the custom was.

Mr. DILLON said the Attorney General professed his inability to define the expression custom, and yet this section opened with the expression, "Where an application is made to the Court to fix a fair rent for a holding which is not subject to the Ulster tenant-right custom or any usage corresponding thereto."

*The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND stated that all the usages prevalent in the province of Ulster were, in the first section of the Act of 1870, designated under the one general word "Ulster custom." Those usages varied from case to case, but they were all covered by the one general term.

Mr. DILLON said if that were so then every tenant would have to prove in all their details the usages that were prevalent. All that was asked for by the Amendment was that the presumption should be in favour of the tenant, and its object was to remove what would be an enormous difficulty to the tenant in proving the existence of the Ulster custom on his holding. The landlord, who was in possession of records and other documents, was in a far better position in this respect than the tenant, and, therefore, it would be inflicting no injustice on him to require him to prove that the custom did not exist on his estate if the contrary was assumed. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL said the Chief Secretary seemed to imagine that none of his predecessors had attempted to grapple with this question, but he would remind him that in the 7th section of the Bill of last year were words precisely similar to those in the Amendment before the Committee. ["Hear, hear!"] He thought there need be no difficulty in framing a definition of the custom; it might be taken from the interpretation of it which Lord Chancellor Law had given. He appealed to the hon. member for South Tyrone to support the Amendment, for he must know as well as any member representing an Ulster constituency that this was a condition which the tenant farmers of Ulster were particularly bent on procuring. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said they were all familiar with the fact of the insertion of the 7th Clause in the Bill of last year, but the late Chief Secretary never succeeded in getting that Bill into Committee The proposal was therefore, never discussed in detail, and he ventured to say that if it had been the late Chief Secretary would have found himself face to face with the same difficulty which had prevented the Government from introducing a similar clause into the present Bill. The Government could not accept the Amendment.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said that the Government would find that Ulster would bitterly resent their action on this question.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 66; Noes, 119.—(Division List, No. 346.)

**Colonel SAUNDERSON** moved to omit Sub-section (9).

***The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND** said that under the Act of 1870 the tenant rights enjoyed in the province of Ulster were legalised and covered by the expression "the Ulster custom," and it was a matter of indifference which phrase was to be used.

**Mr. McCartan, Mr. Jordan** and **Mr. T. M. Healy** thought the expression "Ulster custom" should be used.

Amendment agreed to.

On the Motion "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill,"

**Sir THOMAS LEA** (Londonderry, S.) said he looked with very considerable doubt on the clause, and he was afraid before many years they would have to have an Amending Bill in consequence of its working.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

***The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND** moved the following new clause:—

LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT, 1870.

"Nothing herein contained shall prejudice or affect any right or benefit exercised or enjoyed in or by virtue of any of the usages legalised in the first and second sections of the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1870."

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** proposed to insert after the word "benefit" the words "or presumption."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

**Mr. DILLON** (for **Mr. Roche**) moved the following new clause:—

PROVISIONS AS TO RE-INSTATEMENT OF EVICTED TENANTS AND SALE OF HOLDING.

(1.) In case upon any joint application with a view to reinstatement of an evicted tenant or to the sale of the holding the Land Commission declares as a condition that any sum is reasonably payable in respect of arrears or costs, they may, if they think fit, grant one-half of such sum out of the moneys at their disposal for the purposes of this Act.

(2.) If owing to the destruction or dilapidation of the houses or farm buildings or to other waste on the holding it seems expedient to the Land Commission that a free grant should be made to assist in rebuilding or repairing, they may grant to the applicant for that purpose a sum not exceeding one hundred pounds out of the moneys at their disposal for the purposes of this Act.

(3.) For the purposes of this section of this Act the sum of two hundred thousand pounds shall be charged on the Irish Church Temporalities Fund, and placed at the disposal of the Land Commission.

(4.) The Land Commission may pay out of the Irish Church Temporalities Fund sums not exceeding in the aggregate the sum above mentioned, and may, with the consent of the Treasury, borrow the whole or any part of such sum on the security of the said fund.

(5.) Sections 59 and 64 of the Irish Church Act, 1869, as amended by the Irish Church Act Amendment Act, 1881, shall apply in like manner as if the provisions of this Act were the provisions referred to in those sections, and the advances may be guaranteed by the Treasury, and the sums required to meet the guarantee shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund accordingly.

***The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS** said the last sub-section of the clause was out of order.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** said that for reasons fully stated early in the Session the Government could not accept the clause. It would show favour to the evicted tenants beyond that shown to the tenants who had not been evicted, but had continued, often under great difficulties to pay their rents.

**Mr. DILLON** submitted that no argument could justify the giving of the relief proposed out of the Church Funds to the Irish landlords.

**Mr. HARRINGTON** brought up the following clause:—

PRE-EMPTION REPEAL.

"So much of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, as gives to a landlord a right of pre-emption on the sale of a holding by the tenant shall be and the same is hereby repealed."

The acceptance of this clause would tend to remove a very grievous blot in the Land Act of 1881. It would secure that, in certain estates in Ireland, where some friction existed between landlord and tenant, the tenant would be able to go into the market and sell, as he used to do on all well-managed estates. It would compel a few unreasonable men, who having some small difference with their tenants would not give them the right to sell, to do what the great majority of landlords did.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said he was afraid they could not accept this new clause. It was perfectly true that the right of pre-emption by the landlord was not used in a very large number of cases, but he thought it was also true, to some extent, that the existence of this right, which was very reasonable in itself, somewhat checked the excessively high prices which were now given for tenant right. So long as the right of free sale existed unchecked, there would always be a danger that although the power of the landlord to exact full competition rent was abolished, the evil would reproduce itself whenever a sale took place, inasmuch as the incoming tenant would pay a full competition rent for the tenant right. It was generally acknowledged that this right of pre-emption did exercise a check, perhaps not to a very large extent, upon these very high prices paid for tenant right, and as such they thought these reasonable rights should be maintained.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY asked the Government, by way of compromise, at all events to limit the landlord's right of pre-emption to *bonâ fide* sales of farms.

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL said it would be calamitous if this Amendment were not accepted.

Mr. J. J. SHEE (Waterford, W.) mentioned one extraordinary anomaly in connection with this right of the landlord. In the case of a marriage settlement it had been decided that a transfer from father or mother to son or daughter on the occasion of marriage required the usual notice to the landlord, and that the landlord had the right to buy and prevent the transfer under the marriage settlement. That had been availed of in some cases by the landlord to grab the farm of a tenant who merely desired to make a settlement in the interest of son or daughter.

Mr. T. M. HEALY urged that the right of pre-emption had not worked in the way originally intended, particularly in regard to family settlements.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR agreed that it was unreasonable that this right of pre-emption should exist in the case of marriage settlements. The Government were prepared to consider the matter and to bring up a clause on Report excluding cases of the kind.

*Mr. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.) cited the case of a tenant in Ulster, who, on selling his farm, gave the necessary notice to the landlord. The landlord then went into Court and succeeded in his contention to have "true value" fixed. He broke up the sale which had taken place, paid the vendor the Court price, which was about half what he had already sold at, and then resold to the original purchaser at the same price which he had agreed to pay the outgoing tenant. So that, under this provision of "pre-emption," he was enabled to set aside the Ulster custom of free sale and confiscate a large amount of the tenant's own improvements.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY made an appeal to the Committee to come to a decision. They had to deal with the Irish Estimates to-morrow.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. CLANCY (for Mr. Hayden) moved the following clause :—

### AMENDMENT OF SECTION 57 OF THE LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1881.

"Where a tenant of a holding to which, but for the eviction of such tenant or of his predecessor in title from such holding, the law applicable to present tenancies as amended by this Act would apply has been or shall be reinstated, or where a tenant of a holding, or his predecessor in title, who was in occupation of such holding as tenant before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty three, and whose tenancy was before that date or has since been determined otherwise than by eviction, continues in occupation of his holding, then in each of such cases the tenant shall be deemed to be a present tenant notwithstanding anything contained in Section 57 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, and the said section shall be and the same is hereby modified accordingly."

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said he could not accept this clause. A landlord might reinstate a tenant on the express understanding that he was to be a future tenant, and it would obviously be a hardship that the law should step in and say that he was to be a present tenant. There was a danger, if they enacted that a tenant was always to be reinstated as a present tenant, that the landlord might say that in these circumstances he would not reinstate at all. It was a reasonable thing that a landlord should have power to make a future tenant into a present tenant, whether he had previously occupied the holding or not, and the Government were prepared to accept a new clause to that effect.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said there was one case of hardship which had nothing to do with eviction. It was the case of the tenant whose lease dropped before the 22nd of August 1881, and whose landlord delayed in making him a further lease until the period under which he could be made a present tenant—January 1st 1883—had elapsed. The case was brought forward in 1887 and a section to provide for it was put in, but under the pressure of the landlord party, the present Judge Gibson, who was then Attorney General, took these words, which made the clause nugatory :—

> "Provided that the Court, having regard to all the facts of the case, is of opinion that the making of such lease was deferred with the object of defeating the provisions of the Land Act of 1881."

Although they knew, as a matter of fact that the intention was to defeat the Act, it was found impossible to dive into the sanctuary of any man's mind, and they had, therefore, been unable to bring the necessary proof that this was the object of the delay. He would suggest that as Judge O'Hagan decided that the delay or defeat should be something active and not passive, in the Repeal Section, the Government might put in a proviso repealing the last few lines of the section of the Act of 1887 which he had quoted.

Mr. TULLY observed that it would be a serious blot if this Bill became law without something being done for the future tenants. The Chief Secretary had said that the number of such tenants had been exaggerated, but he could assure the right hon. Gentleman, from his experience in his own constituency of South Leitrim that there was no exaggeration about the matter, hundreds of families having been turned into future tenants and deprived absolutely of any benefits under the Land Acts. This had been especially the case where the people happened to live in backward districts, and were ignorant of the rights conferred upon them by the Land Act of 1881. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to adopt, at any rate, some Amendment which would give these people the right to go into Court and have a fair rent fixed.

Mr. FLAVIN stated that a large number of these future tenancies existed in county Kerry, and he urged that some Amendment should be adopted with a view of admitting them to the benefits of the Land Acts.

Clause negatived.

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL had the following new clause on the Paper :—

FUTURE AND PRESENT TENANCIES.

> "(1) Where a tenancy in a holding begun not less than five years next before the tenant thereof applies to have a fair rent fixed for the holding, and the tenant so applying either has at any time, whether before or after the passing of this Act, been a present tenant of that holding or of the substantial part thereof or was before the twenty-third day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, a tenant of that holding or of the substantial part thereof, the tenancy shall be a present tenancy within the meaning of the Land Law Acts, and the application shall be deemed to have been made by the present tenant.
>
> (2) If at any time the landlord and tenant so agree, a future tenancy shall become a present tenancy within the meaning of the Land Acts."

He observed that as the first part of the clause referred to what might be called future tenants, and as the Chief Secretary had already intimated that he could not accept any clause in that direction, he should not move that part of it. Indeed, after such a prolonged sitting—the House had been sitting twelve and a half hours—he hardly felt competent to argue or debate it. He apprehended, however, that the right hon. Gentleman would accept the second sub-section. He would only move Sub-section (2) of the clause.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said he had no objection to accepting the principle of the Amendment, but there was a clause on the Paper in the name of the hon. and learned Member for Louth, which he thought would meet the case better than that proposed by the Right hon. and learned Gentleman.

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL said in that case he would withdraw the clause.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. WALTER MORRISON (York, W.R., Skipton) moved the following clause :—

FAIR RENT APPLICATIONS.

"When upon the hearing of an application to fix a fair rent, the court is of opinion that the tenant of a holding has wilfully or through neglect caused the said holding to become deteriorated, the court shall thereupon dismiss the said application."

He said it was known that when an Irish tenant was thinking of applying for a fair rent, he was apt to allow his holding to go into a bad condition to induce the valuer to value low. That was anticipated by Mr. Lalor at the time of the passing of the Act of 1881, who, in proposing a different method to that proposed under that Bill, said that one effect of the Bill as it stood would be that if the tenant did make improvements, he would allow the improvements to run out in order that the land should be in as bad a state as possible when a valuation came to be made. He proposed that where the Land Court was satisfied that there had been wilful deterioration and waste on the part of the tenant, he should be excluded from the right to apply for a reduction of his rent.

Colonel WARING called attention to the constant interruption proceeding from the Benches opposite.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS : Order, order ! I request the hon. Member for Mid Cork to keep order.

*Mr. MORRISON said he would not detain the Committee, but would move the clause standing in his name.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said it appeared to him that this matter was already sufficiently dealt with under the existing law. He had no doubt whatever that, if the Committee arrived at the decision that the tenant had wilfully caused the holding to be deteriorated with the view of having the rent fixed at a lower figure than it would otherwise have been fixed, it would come under Section 9 of the Act of 1881, as being unreasonable conduct, and the Court would do exactly what his hon. Friend wished. If, on the other hand, it merely arrose from neglect or bad farming, without any wilfully bad intention, he thought it would be too severe a penalty to deprive him of his rent.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said the clause was really unnecessary, and he hoped, under the circumstances, the hon. Member would withdraw it. ["Hear, hear!"]

Clause negatived.

Mr. T. M. HEALY moved the following new clause, [which in the Bill, as reprinted is Clause 39] :—

PROVISION FOR AGREEMENTS BY LANDLORDS AND TENANTS IN CERTAIN CASES.

(1.) The landlord and tenant of any holding may at any time (whether a statutory term is current in respect of the holding or not) agree in the prescribed manner in regard to all or any of the matters following :—

- (*a*) the consolidation of the holding with any other holding or portion of a holding or the making of any addition to the holding;
- (*b*) the assignment or surrender of portion of the holding;
- (*c*) the creation of a present tenancy in any holding;
- (*d*) the abridgement of any statutory term in the holding; and
- (*e*) the fair rent of the holding and the date at which the statutory term is to commence and the duration thereof.

(2.) Where any such agreement is made the tenancy in the holding shall (in the absence of a provision to the contrary) as and from the date of the agreement, be a present tenancy.

(3.) Any such agreement on being filed in the prescribed manner with the Land Commission shall have the same effect and consequences in all respects as if the matters agreed to therein had been determined by the Land Commission.

Clause read a First and Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) moved the following clause, which he said he hoped the Government would accept :—

GLEBE PURCHASE.

For the purposes of the Land Purchase Acts and of this Act, so far as same deals with land purchase, any ecclesiastical person who, in connection with or by virtue of his ecclesiastical office or duties, holds and occupies any glebe or residence either with or without land in connection with and forming part of such holding, at and subject to a yearly rent payable by such ecclesiastical person to the governing body recognised by law of the community to which he belongs, shall be deemed and taken to be an occupier of a holding to which such Land Purchase Acts and this Act for that purpose applies, as fully and effectually as if such glebe or residence were an agricultural holding; and such ecclesiastical person shall be at liberty to apply to the Land Commission Court for the purchase of such holding; and such Land Commission is hereby authorised and empowered to advance such sum or sums of money as may be necessary to enable such ecclesiastical person so in occupation as aforesaid to purchase such holding: Provided always, that such purchase, when made, shall be and enure to the use and benefit of the governing body recognised by law of the community to which such purchaser shall at the time of such purchase belong, on such terms and conditions as such governing body of such community may by rules or orders for that purpose prescribe, and which rules or orders such governing bodies are hereby respectively authorised and empowered to make within three calendar months after this Act shall come into operation: and provided also, that no such ecclesiastical person so purchasing such a glebe or residence, or ecclesiastical holding as aforesaid, shall in respect of such glebe or residence, or ecclesiastical holding as aforesaid, be entitled to make any claim for compensation under any of the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act 1870, or under any of the provisions of any Land Act since passed, or under this Act.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said the Government could not accept the new clause, and hoped the hon. Member would not press it.

Mr. T. M. HEALY moved the following clause:—

TOWN PARKS.

In the construction of sub-section two of the fifty-eighth section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act 1881, the word "town" shall be construed to mean a town having a population according to the last census of at least three thousand.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said he felt compelled to oppose the clause.

Clause negatived.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved the following clause:—

TOWN PARKS.

In the construction of the seventh section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act 1887, the word "agricultural" shall be construed to mean agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral.

Clause read a First and Second time and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Colonel McCALMONT (Antrim, N.) moved the following clause:—

JUDICIAL RENT MAY BE FIXED WHERE CONTRACT PROVIDES FOR RESUMPTION OF HOLDING BY THE LANDLORD.

"Where any holding is held under a contract of tenancy, empowering the landlord to resume the whole or any part thereof for the purpose of building or planting, a judicial rent may be fixed in respect thereof, without prejudice to the right of the landlord to resume possession at any time for the *bonâ fide* purposes aforesaid, upon the terms contained in the said contract of tenancy, or, if no terms are contained therein, upon such terms as a landlord can be authorised to resume a holding, or any part thereof, under Section 5 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881.

He explained that the object of the clause was to enable a certain number of *bonâ fide* agricultural tenants to enjoy the benefits of the Land Acts from which they had hitherto been excluded through the action of the Judges. He referred to the case of the tenants in the neighbourhood of Ballycastle, and said he did not think it right that these men should be excluded from the benefits of the Act. He did not think the clause affected the landlords in any way, and he appealed to the Government to accept it as a measure of justice. ["Hear, hear!"] If the Government adopted the course he proposed, they would put an end to a great deal of the friction that now went on.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that he hoped, after what had fallen from the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite, the Government would accept the Amendment.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND said he should like to have time for the further consideration of the hon. and gallant Gentleman's proposal.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that he could only repeat his hope that the Government would give way on this point. He referred to a number of other cases besides that of Ballycastle in support of his contention. The clause provided that where any holding was held under a contract of tenancy empowering the landlord to resume the whole or any part thereof for the purpose of building or planting, a judicial rent might be fixed in respect thereof without prejudice to the right of the landlord to resume possession at any time for the *bonâ fide* purposes named upon the terms contained in the contract of tenancy, or if no terms were contained therein, upon such terms as a landlord could be authorised to resume a holding or any part thereof under the 5th section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act 1881. Seeing that the Government had already accepted an Amendment which was based upon the same principle as the present Amendment, he thought they were rather inconsistent in refusing to accept the latter. The clause prejudiced no landlord, and those it was intended to benefit were Unionist to a man.

*MR. SMITH-BARRY objected to a special clause for such a small number of people, while he was sorry for them.

MR. PINKERTON supported the clause. The hon. and gallant Member was his own representative in the House. He had never asked anything for his constituents before, and he hoped the first time he opened his mouth he would not be refused. [*Laughter and* "Hear, hear!"]

MR. DANE said he would suggest to the Chief Secretary that he should accept this Amendment, varied by the words "the landlord should be entitled to resume a portion of it upon such terms as may seem just to the Court." This was a hard case. The exclusion of these people was due not so much to the Act of 1881 as to Judge-made law. [*Nationalist cheers.*]

MR. GERALD BALFOUR was afraid that, without further consideration, he could not accept the clause. It would require careful thinking out. If the clause passed in its present form, and there were no terms contained in the contract, then the landlord would resume upon such terms as he was authorised to resume the holding on under Section 5 of the Landlord Act of 1881.

MR. DILLON: Will the right hon. Gentleman bring up a clause on Report?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I will consider it. I cannot say more than that.

Clause negatived.

MR. FLYNN offered the following clause:—

APPLICATION OF CLAUSE 10 OF THE ORDER IN COUNCIL, 1890, TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

It is hereby provided that, for the purposes of the Land Law (Ireland) Acts and of this Act, Clause ten of the Order in Council, dated the fifteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety, shall not apply to such assistant Commissioners as have been appointed at any time prior to the date of the passing of this Act.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: On a point of order, I desire to ask you, Sir, whether the age of the Sub-Commissioners is relevant to a Bill of this kind. Is it not altogether outside the scope of the Bill? It is an interference with the rule of 65, which is generally applied to all civil servants.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: This Bill does take in a great number of provisions, but I do not think this can fairly come within the scope of the Bill.

MR. DILLON: On the point of order, I would ask, is this Bill not exactly analogous in all its other provisions to the Act of 1891, in which the status of the Land Commission is settled? I would also direct your attention to Clause 17, by which the composition of the Land Commission is altered.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I do not think this clause ought to come within the scope of the Bill. It seems to be getting too far from the subject-matter of the Bill.

MR. FLYNN asked the Chief Secretary if he could take the matter into consideration and see if anything could be done in the direction indicated in his clause.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved the following new clause:—

GROUND OF APPEAL TO BE STATED.

"Rules under Section fifty of the Land Law (Ireland) Act may provide that, subject to the qualifications (if any) contained in those rules, every notice of appeal shall state the grounds of appeal, and on the hearing of the appeal no grounds of appeal shall be entered into except those so stated. For the purpose of this section 'appeal' includes 'rehearing.'"

Clause read a First and Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved the following new clause:—

TENANCY TO BE PRESENT TENANCY WHERE LANDLORD HAS SO CONSENTED.

"Where, prior to the commencement of this Act, the landlord of a holding has consented that the tenancy in the holding should be a present tenancy, or that the tenant should have the same rights as a present tenant, the tenancy shall be deemed to be a present tenancy accordingly."

Clause read a First and Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

MR. KNOX brought up the following new clause:—

POWERS OF MORTGAGEE.

"A mortgagee with power of sale shall for all the purposes of the Land Purchase Acts be deemed to be a landlord."

Clause read a First and Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

# SCHEDULE.

## ACTS REPEALED.

| Session and Chapter. | Short Title. | Extent of Repeal. |
|---|---|---|
| 33 & 34 Vict. c. 46. | Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870. | Sections thirty-five, thirty-seven, and thirty-nine. |
| 44 & 45 Vict. c. 46. | Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881. | In section eight, sub-section two, from "as from the period" down to "decision of the court," and sub-section three, from "from the rent day" down to "has been given"; and from "with this modification" to "by him for such purpose," being the end of the sub-section.<br>Section twenty-four, from "as follows" to "fair rent of the holding," being the end of sub-section one.<br>In section twenty-six from "the Land Commission may advance" down to "payable by the tenant," being sub-section four.<br>Section twenty-eight from the beginning down to "purchaser therein mentioned," being sub-sections one and two.<br>In section thirty, sub-section three, from "on the terms" down to "1870."<br>Section thirty-three.<br>Section thirty-seven.<br>In section thirty-eight, sub-section one, down to "civil bill court, and"; sub-section six and sub-section seven.<br>In section forty-four, the words "except the power of hearing appeals"; and from "with this qualification" to the end of the section.<br>Section forty-seven.<br>In section fifty, sub-section one, paragraph (*c*), paragraph (*f*), paragraph (*h*).<br>In section fifty-eight, sub-sections two, three, and four. |
| 48 & 49 Vict. c. 73. | Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1885 | In section two, from "it shall not be lawful" to the end of the section, being paragraph (*c*).<br>In section three, from "the Land Commission shall pay" down to "per annum."<br>In section four, the words "such value to be "calculated according to the table in the Schedule to this Act."<br>Section eight.<br>Section nine.<br>In section ten, from "sections sixty-four" down to "Landed Estates Court Act."<br>In section fourteen, from "the Land Commission shall register" down to "local registration."<br>In section seventeen, from "the additional members" down to "any less number of the Land Commission."<br>Section twenty-four. |

## SCHEDULE—*continued.*

| Session and Chapter. | Short Title. | Extent of Repeal. |
|---|---|---|
| 50 & 51 Vict. c. 33. | Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887. | Section one down to "passing of this Act."<br>In section four, from "a tenant may also" to the end of the section.<br>Section five.<br>Section six.<br>Section nine.<br>Section fourteen, from "The Land Commission may if they think fit" down to "Land (Ireland) Act, 1885," being sub-sections one and two; and from "where a holding" to the end of the section, being part of sub-section three.<br>In section sixteen, sub-section two, from "the last-mentioned power of apportionment" down to "of a conveyance," being the end of that sub-section.<br>Section seventeen.<br>In section eighteen, from "section thirty-four" to the end of the section, being sub-section two.<br>Section twenty-three down to "therein and."<br>Section thirty-two. |
| 51 & 52 Vict. c. 49. | Purchase of Land (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1888. | Section one, down to "said sub-section and."<br>Section three.<br>Section six. |
| 54 & 55 Vict. c. 45. | The Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891. | Section three.<br>In section four, sub-section two, from "in paying to the guarantee fund, to the end of the sub-section, being paragraph (*b*).<br>Section seven.<br>Section eight, as respects any advances made after the commencement of this Act.<br>In section nine, sub-section three.<br>In section twenty-nine, sub-section one, from "provided that" to Act, 1881" where those words first occur; sub-section two.<br>In section forty-two, from "the expression annual value" to "so determined."<br>Also the following portions as respects purchases in pursuance of an agreement made after the commencement of this Act, namely:—<br>In section one, sub-section one.<br>Section two.<br>In section four the words "as follows" in sub-section one and sub-section two, so far as not repealed by the foregoing provisions of this schedule.<br>In section fifteen, sub-section one, sub-section three, sub-section four, sub-section five, sub-section six; sub-section eleven, from the beginning down to "stock so issued, and."<br>Section seventeen, from "by transferring" to the end of the section.<br>In section twenty-seven, sub-section one, from "the sinking fund" down to "stock cancelled," being paragraph (*a*), and sub-section two from "and so far as they relate to," to the end of the section.<br>In section forty-two, the words "by the issue of stock." |

*MR. SMITH-BARRY moved in line 30 (as printed on preceding page) to omit the word "three" from the paragraph, "In Section fifty-eight, Subsections two, three, and four"—(Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881).

Amendment agreed to.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR moved, after the words "Section six"—(Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887)—to insert the words "Section seven."

Amendment agreed to.

On the Motion "That the Bill, as amended, be reported,"

MR. T. M. HEALY said that Motion ought not to be passed without some voice being raised to express the sense which he personally felt of the great skill, industry, knowledge, and patience of the Chief Secretary in the conduct of this Bill. [*Loud cheers.*]

MR. CLANCY desired to associate himself with the remarks of the hon. and learned Gentleman, and also to add his tribute to the Attorney General for Ireland. [*Renewed cheers.*]

Motion agreed to, amid loud cheers.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: We propose to take the Report stage on Tuesday next. [*Cheers.*]

Bill, as amended, to be considered upon Tuesday next, and to be printed.—[Bill 323.]

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### LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS (EXCISE DUTY).

Committee thereupon deferred till Monday next.

### LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till Monday next.

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### COLLECTING SOCIETIES (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; Bill read the Third time, and passed.

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### UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

### OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] further adjourned till Tomorrow.

### LARCENY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Tomorrow.

### BURGLARY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Tomorrow.

### CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) BILL.

Further proceeding on consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee) deferred till Monday next.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

Third Reading deferred till Monday next.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [19th May] on consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), further adjourned till Tuesday next.

### TELEGRAPH MONEY BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

### MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

### MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [15th May] further adjourned till Monday next.

### MILITARY WORKS (MONEY).

Committee thereupon deferred till Monday next.

### NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

### FINANCE BILL.

Third Reading deferred till Monday next.

### HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at Twenty minutes
before Five o'clock
in the morning.

*An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Friday, 24th July 1896.*

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

### PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS.

**Lord HARRIS** moved; "That the Order made on the 16th of March last,—

> 'That no Bill brought from the House of Commons confirming any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate shall be read a Second time after Tuesday the 23rd day of June next,'

be dispensed with, and that the

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (NO. 15) BILL,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (NO. 16) BILL,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (NO. 21) BILL,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (NO. 22) BILL,

be read a Second time."

**The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES** (The Earl of Morley) observed that he did not intend to make any objection to the order being dispensed with, but this year there were more late Bills than he ever remembered.

**Lord HARRIS** said he had already called the attention of the Local Government Board to this matter. He was much obliged to the noble Earl for not opposing the Motion to-day.

Motion agreed to; Bills read a Second time accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

### POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

***Lord NORTON** said he had given notice to Her Majesty's Government of a question which he thought their Lordships would agree dealt with a very serious and urgent subject. The increasing pollution of all the rivers throughout the kingdom by the sewage of the towns was now reported in every district by medical officers as a sanitary matter of the most grave importance to the life of man and beast, to the health of the community, and it was largely destructive to property. He himself was the first to try the powers of the law to abate this nuisance by bringing an action for damages against the Corporation of Birmingham. He knew what the difficulty and expense were of a private individual obtaining an injunction, but he did obtain it, and it was a precedent for all subsequent proceedings on the subject. Statutory facilities had since been offered. The Rivers Pollution Prevention Act of 1876 was very complete for its purposes, apparently. It defined what pollution of rivers meant under the Act; it made it obligatory upon all sanitary authorities throughout the kingdom to facilitate in every way the drainage of their towns through sewers clear of all running streams. It also imposed upon County Courts to enforce the abatement of this nuisance by summary order with an appeal to the High Court. But the Act had turned out to be somewhat of a dead letter, for want of provisions to carry it out. No sooner was the sanitary authority called upon to fulfil its obligations under the Act than innumerable delays immediately occurred. Every sort of difficulty was found in the way of execution of works, and if they were begun they did not proceed. In the first place there were no definite powers enabling their execution; and in the second place the County Council had too small an area to deal with the whole basin of a river, and in many cases would have no command of an outfall for their works. The Local Government Board, by general acknowledgment, had a good deal too freely used its power of suspending the order of the County Court, and in that way they hung up numerous cases without any operation taking effect. Years passed away before an offender was finally brought in contact with the County Court Judge, and then a new crop of delays began to occur. That was the state of things in which the law had become inoperative. The 14th Section of the Local Government Act of 1888 gave powers generally to County Councils to enforce the Act of 1876, but there were no provisions for carrying out the powers given, and, of all things, there was no power given to County Councils to combine so as to deal with the whole area of the river. Under these circumstances, the County Councils Association drafted a Bill which would empower the County Councils to effectually abate this nuisance. Lord Cross passed that Bill through their Lordships' House in 1893, but it dropped in the other House, simply for want of attention or time. Every year since then a private Member, Sir Francis Powell, had introduced this same Bill into the House of Commons, and it was now before that House again, with as little prospect of passing as at first. He thought he might press upon the Government that what had happened showed that private Members could not deal with this subject. The remarkable thing was that the failing enactment had been carried out by local Acts, and had worked in the most successful manner in two districts of the country. All the powers that were required were embodied in the Mersey and Irwell Act, and the West Riding of Yorkshire Act. He was told by Lord Egerton of Tatton that the Mersey and Irwell Act was in full operation and most successful. They had nothing whatever to do but to make the powers of these Acts general to gain the object they had in view. The Government could do it; clearly private Members could not do it. He only asked the Government to take the matter up, and in a very short Act they might extend the powers given under these two local Acts to all districts throughout the kingdom. He believed such a Bill would be received with the greatest acclamation by most of the County Councils in England. He could hardly hope that the Government would introduce such a Bill now, but he hoped they would give him some encouragement to believe that they would deal with the subject if possible early next Session. He begged to ask Her Majesty's Government if they will undertake the legislation which, in a few clauses, has been prepared by the County Councils Association, in the terms of existing local Acts, but which in private hands has failed for several Sessions to obtain time for discussion. It is simply to make general the powers of procedure, already successfully given in those local Acts, for facilitating the prevention of pollution of rivers.

Lord THRING said the evil of which the noble Lord had spoken could not be exaggerated. It was perfectly true, as the noble Lord said, that both in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire private Acts had been passed, at very great expense and after very great difficulty, which were perfectly effectual. The real truth was that the difficulty of dealing with the evil was to be found in the Act of 1876 rather than in the other Acts. The Act of 1876 declared that, in a manufacturing town or district, the effluents of the manufactories could not be removed and the pollution dealt with unless it could be done at a reasonable cost and without injuring the manufacturing interests of the place. But it was almost impossible, where a large number of manufactories existed, to attempt to deal with the evil without in some way injuring, or interfering with, the manufacturing interests. ["Hear, hear!"] The Act, most unfortunately, contrary to the common law, and in opposition to the remonstrances made on the point when the Act was passed, declared that the certificate of the Local Government Board should be conclusive, he thought, as to the reasonableness of the cost and the practicability of the needs. But the Act of 1876 was practically unworkable. Time after time another Bill had been introduced into Parliament, and efforts repeatedly made to pass it into law; but those efforts had never succeeded, because the Government would not take the trouble of undertaking to pass it. ["Hear, hear!"] The fact that such a Bill could be passed if the Government took it up, and ought to be passed, could not be denied. In Lancashire, where, perhaps, the evil existed to a greater extent than in any other part of the country, and where, unless some remedy was applied, even the Manchester Ship Canal would be seriously injured, the authorities had done much, even under the existing law and their local Acts, though at great expense to mitigate the nuisance; and the action which had been taken in Lancashire and Yorkshire should be enforced throughout the country.

VISCOUNT CLIFDEN said he agreed with all the noble Lord had said as to the seriousness of the evil, and the necessity for an effective remedy being applied. But he differed from him on one point. The noble Lord seemed to desire an Act framed on the lines of the two local Acts in the West Riding and Lancashire; yet the noble Lord who had just spoken had said that, notwithstanding those Acts, the contamination of the rivers in Lancashire was very great.

LORD THRING: No. I said that, as far as I know, the Acts had worked completely in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

VISCOUNT CLIFDEN said he thought the condition of the Manchester Ship Canal showed a state of things that was not at all satisfactory. On the Committee last year, a member of the West Riding County Council—he thought the chairman—stated in evidence, in answer to a question from him, that every river in the West Riding was nothing but an open sewer. If that was the case in spite of the local Acts, he hoped the Bill brought in next year would be far more stringent than those Acts appeared to be.

LORD HARRIS said it was from no lack of recognition of the importance of the subject—for obviously there could be no subject of greater importance than the public health—that he was unable to promise that the Government would undertake what the noble Lord had asked them to do. It might be taken, he imagined, that the Act of 1876 had not been successful from the fact that it had been to a great extent inoperative. But under that Act, and also under the Act of 1888, considerable powers could be conferred upon urban and rural district councils to deal with the evils referred to. The authorities concerned had only to apply to the Local Government Board for those powers, and the Board could make a Provisional Order for the constitution of a Joint Committee representing the counties or county boroughs, or one or other of them, through which the polluted river ran. It was therefore possible under the existing Acts for the local authorities to come to the Local Government Board for powers to combine, and thus to work over a larger area of the river-bed than a single authority could do. The noble Lord had suggested that legislation upon the lines they would like to see adopted was a very simple matter for the Government to undertake. But what were the facts? The Rivers Pollution Prevention Bill had been introduced several years in succession in the House of Commons. It had been again introduced this year, and as a matter of fact it was at that moment blocked by no fewer than five Members, and those Members were not confined to one Party. It was, therefore, scarcely possible to describe the Measure as a non-contentious one, or one that could be passed easily through Parliament. There was a number of people, he thought, who did not through their representatives look at this matter from the same point of view that the authorities representing the counties did, and he imagined that the Measure was blocked by the representatives of very large cities. It was therefore extremely probable that whoever undertook to legislate on the matter would be met with strong opposition of that character, and consequently he could not admit that such legislation would be a simple matter or that it could be easily passed through Parliament because the Government took it up. As had been stated, three Joint Committees had been constituted for Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire under the Acts referred to. In two of those cases the authorities had, by means of local Acts, obtained additional powers. He wished he could make a more satisfactory reply to the noble Lord than he was able to give, but the noble Lord would recognise that it was impossible for the Government at this moment to pledge themselves as to the legislative Measures they would introduce and undertake to carry through next Session. All that he could assure him of was that the suggestions he had made would not be lightly passed over by the Local Government Board, as, indeed, from the importance of the matter, they ought not to be. ["Hear, hear!"]

LORD NORTON believed that those who blocked the Bill in the House of Commons were the representatives of the boroughs which were the nuisance-makers in this matter. The question was whether the boroughs should be allowed to use the country as their wash-pot? [*Laughter.*] If they had to wait until the boroughs abated their own nuisances they would have to wait a long time.

## PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

## SPECIAL JURIES BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the law respecting special juries—Was presented by the Lord Chancellor; read 1ª; and to be printed.—[No. 213.]

## JUDICIAL TRUSTEES BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to order).

[The EARL of MORLEY, CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES, in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

### POWER OF COURT ON APPLICATION TO APPOINT JUDICIAL TRUSTEE.

(1.) Where application is made to the court for the appointment of a judicial trustee as respects the trust or any property by or on behalf of the person creating or intending to create the trust, or by or on behalf of a trustee, or beneficiary, the Court may, in its discretion, appoint a judicial trustee of such trust, either jointly with any other judicial trustee or any other persons or as sole trustee, and, if sufficient cause is shown, in place of any existing trustee.

(2.) The administration of the property of a deceased person, whether a testator or intestate, shall be a trust, and the executor or administrator a trustee, within the meaning of this section

(3.) Where a judicial trustee is appointed, the Court may on or after such appointment vest in the judicial trustee if he be sole trustee, and in the judicial trustee jointly with any other person or persons, if he be appointed to act jointly with any other person or persons, all or any part of the trust property.

(4.) A judicial trustee may be either an official of the Court or any other person, and in either case shall be subject to the control and supervision of the Court as an officer thereof.

(5.) The Court may, either on request or without request, give to a judicial trustee any general or special directions in regard to the trust or the administration thereof.

*Lord Norton.*

(6.) There may be paid to a judicial trustees out of the trust property such remuneration, not exceeding the prescribed limits, as the Court may assign in each case, subject to any rules under this Act respecting the application of such remuneration where the judicial trustee is an official of the Court, and the remuneration so assigned to any judicial trustee shall, save as the Court may for special reasons otherwise order, cover all his work and personal outlay.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2,—

### COURT TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION.

The jurisdiction of the Court under this Act may be exercised by the High Court, the Court of Chancery of the county palatine of Lancaster, and (subject to the prescribed definition of the jurisdiction) by any county court judge to whom such jurisdiction may be assigned under this Act.

LORD ASHBOURNE moved an Amendment the object of which was to extend the Bill to Ireland. From every point of view the Bill appeared to be a sensible and valuable one to assist the administration of justice in trust matters, and he should be exceedingly sorry if it could not be extended to Ireland. He was, however, very anxious that the Bill should pass, and if it should be found hereafter that his Amendment would be likely to lead to any complication, he certainly would not persist in it at the risk of endangering the passing of the Measure. [" Hear, hear !"]

Amendment agreed to; clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3,—

### EXCUSING AND AUTHORISING BREACH OF TRUST.

(1.) If it appears to the Court that a trustee, whether appointed under this Act or not, is or may be personally liable for any breach of trust, but has acted honestly and reasonably, and ought fairly to be excused for the breach of trust and for omitting to obtain the directions of the Court in the manner in which he committed such breach, then the Court may relieve the trustee either wholly or partly from personal liability for the same.

(2) The court may authorise a departure from the terms of a trust, where satisfied that since the creation thereof there has been a change of circumstances, and that such departure will not prejudice any of the persons beneficially

interested in the trust, and is for the benefit of those persons or some of them, and generally that it is expedient to authorise the same.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (LORD HALSBURY) said he did not see Lord Derby, who had an Amendment on the Paper, present, and he supposed the noble Lord intended to postpone moving his Amendment until the Bill was considered by the Standing Committee. He, however, wished to say a word upon a matter on which he could not move an Amendment. He was not responsible nor were their Lordships responsible for a margined note on this clause. Perhaps he was in the habit, as a lawyer, of not looking at the marginal notes, and therefore he did not see the note to this clause when he presented the Bill. It appeared to him that somebody had been playfully engaged in trying to throw some ridicule on the Bill, for the marginal note was "excusing and authorising the act of trust." [*Laughter.*] Of course a marginal note was not a part of a Bill, and he had only mentioned the circumstance to show he did not at all acquiesce in that description of legislation.["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*]

LORD ASHBOURNE said that Clause 3 was of the highest value to all trustees who acted honestly and fairly, but who inadvertently committed some breach of trust, and brought themselves within the complications of the law. Lord Herschell had, on a previous occasion, stated that this clause, of all others in the Bill, was the one which most commended itself to his appreciation.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4,—

RULES.

(1.) Rules may be made for carrying into effect this Act, and especially—

(1) for requiring judicial trustees, who are not officials of the Court, to give security for the due application of any trust property under their control:

(2) respecting the safety of the trust property and the custody thereof:

(3) respecting the remuneration of judicial trustees and for fixing and regulating the fees to be taken under this Act so as to cover the expenses of the administration of this Act, and respecting the payment of such remuneration and fees out of the trust property:

(4) for dispensing with formal proof of facts in proper cases:

(5) for facilitating the discharge by the Court of administrative duties under this Act without judicial proceedings, and otherwise regulating procedure under this Act and making it simple and inexpensive:

(6) for assigning jurisdiction under this Act to County Court Judges and defining such jurisdiction:

(7) respecting the suspension or removal of any judicial trustee, and the succession of another person to the office of any judicial trustee who may cease to hold office, and the vesting in such person of any trust property or executorship:

(8) respecting the classes of trusts in which officials of the Court are not to be judicial trustees, or are to be so temporarily or conditionally:

(9) respecting the grant of probate or letters of administration to judicial trustees:

(10) for preventing the employment by judicial trustees of other persons at the expense of the trust, except in cases of strict necessity:

(11) for the filing of accounts by judicial trustees.

(2.) The rules under this Act may be made by the authority having for the time being power to make rules regulating the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court of Judicature, and shall be laid before Parliament and have the same force as if enacted in this Act, provided that if within thirty days after such rules have been laid before either House of Parliament, during which that House has sat, the House presents to Her Majesty an address against such rules or any of them, such rules or the rule specified in the address shall thenceforward be of no effect.

LORD ASHBOURNE moved, in Subsection (2), to omit the word "authority," and to insert the words "respective authorities."

Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR thought the persons who framed the Bill were under some misapprehension as to what the Rule Committee did. There were one or two matters provided for which were not properly within the function of the Rule Committee, and in the Standing Committee he would propose Amendments in respect of them.

LORD ASHBOURNE trusted that, when his noble Friend introduced Amendments on the subject of the drafting of Rules, he would see that similar changes were made with reference to the Rule-making authority in Ireland.

Amendment proposed, after the word "Judicature," to insert the words "in England and Ireland"—*(Lord Ashbourne)*—put and agreed to.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended.—[No. 214.]

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### COLLECTING SOCIETIES BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Monday next.—*(The Lord Chancellor.)*—[No. 215.]

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### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

To be read 2ª on Monday next.—*(The Lord Chancellor.)*

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### CABS (LONDON) BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

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### PUBLIC OFFICES (SITE) BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order) and passed.

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### PUBLIC HEALTH (PORTS) BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

House adjourned at Five minutes past
Five o'clock, to Monday next,
Eleven o'clock.

*Lord Ashbourne.*

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Friday, 24th July 1896.*

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### ROXBOROUGH SCHOOLS, LIMERICK (CORRESPONDENCE).

Return [presented 18th May] to be printed.—[No. 312.]

### EAST INDIA (MADRAS PRESIDENCY) (EVICTIONS).

Return [presented 11th June] to be printed.—[No. 313.]

### EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th July—*Mr. Hobhouse*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.—[No. 314.]

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### RAILWAYS (IRELAND) BILL.

Reported, without Amendment, from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed [No. 315]; Minutes of Proceedings to be printed [No. 315]; Bill to be read the Third time upon Monday next.

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## *QUESTIONS.*

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### ASHFORD FIRE BRIGADE.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): On behalf of the hon Member for Kent, Ashford (Mr. LAURENCE HARDY), I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General—(1) whether he is aware that communication has been established by means of electric bell circuits between the fire station at Ashford and the residences of the officers and members of the brigade, and also between the fire station and the police station; that, similarly, electric bell communication has been established between a very large number of fire brigade stations throughout the kingdom and the residences of their members and the local police stations; and that such communication is maintained without charge solely for the purpose of facilitating the prompt extinction of fire and the saving of life and property; (2) whether the postal authorities in March last gave notice to the fire brigade at Ashford, and to the other fire brigades above referred to, that the use of electric bell communication for the purposes aforesaid was an infringement of the Postmaster General's exclusive telegraphic rights under the Telegraph Act of 1869, 32 and 33 Vic., c. 73, and further stated that the Department was prepared to undertake the provision of such circuits; (3) whether he is aware that the electric bell communication referred to is employed without charge for transmission, and that the Department could in no case derive any profit from it; and, (4) whether, if advised that a technical breach of his telegraphic rights has occurred in these cases, he will, nevertheless, waive his rights in the matter, and remit all fines and penalties incurred; or, if this should be impossible, introduce a short Bill enabling him to do so?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The Postmaster General is aware of the existence of the communications referred to in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's Question. He is also aware that the object of such communications is to facilitate the prompt extinction of fire and the saving of life and property, and that at Ashford and, as a rule, elsewhere no charge is made for their use. It is the fact that the notice referred to in the second paragraph was given in the case of Ashford. The Postmaster General is advised that the telegraphs which have been provided at Ashford constitute an infringement of his exclusive rights, but it is not a case in which he would think of imposing onerous conditions, or of exacting fines and penalties, and he has no doubt that the matter can be suitably arranged with the local authorities.

## ARMY PENSION (HUGH MURRAY).

MR. M. McCARTAN (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, with reference to an Army pensioner, named Hugh Murray, now of Annsborough, near Castlemellan, County Down, whether he is aware that Murray, who was discharged from 1st Dragoons on 5th January 1864 as unfitted for service, and afterwards from 2nd class Army Reserve on 30th June 1892, after a combined service of 19 years, received only 4½d. a day of pension; whether he received a good conduct badge before leaving the line regiment; and, whether his case will be inquired into with the view of having his pension increased.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): Hugh Murray was discharged from the Army in consequence of ill health, brought on by his own indiscretion, with under 6 years' service. He served subsequently in the 2nd class Reserve for nearly 27 years. Half of this latter service counting towards pension, he was finally discharged with 19½ years' service, which entitled him to a pension of 5½d. a day, including a penny for a good conduct badge. He has received all that can be granted under the Royal Warrant.

## IRISH LAND COMMISSION (LAND CERTIFICATE).

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the reasons why the Land Commission consider it necessary to retain the land certificate issued to tenant purchasers by the registrar of titles during the continuance of the purchase annuity; whether the attention of the Land Commission has been called to the fact that the issue of the certificate could not injure them in any way as their mortgage debt is expressly mentioned both on the face of the certificate and on the register, and that the effect of the retention is to compel proprietors, who wish to borrow money on the security of their holdings, to execute a legal mortgage at heavy cost, whereas if they held the land certificate they could borrow without law costs by merely pledging the certificate; and, whether the Land Commission will consider the desirability of withdrawing the rule which they have made on this subject?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Land Commissioners consider it is essential that they should retain the land certificate so long as the advance is outstanding, because, if it became necessary to sell the holding for default of payment of the instalments, it is necessary that the original land certificate should be deposited with the registrar of titles, either to be cancelled or to be endorsed according to the circumstances of the transfer. It is evident that if the certificate was in the hands of the defaulter, delay and embarrassment would be caused in selling holdings for default. The rule in question was framed after consultation with Mr. Justice Monroe, the then head of the Registration of Title Department, and that rule makes it a condition to the making of an advance that the land certificate should be so retained by the land Commission. Tenant purchasers are in no way in a worse position with regard to obtaining loans on the security of their holdings than they were previous to the passing of the Local Registration of Title Act. A copy of the land certificate is in every case furnished to them in lieu of the copy conveyance which was formerly issued to them. Under the circumstances stated, the Land Commission do not consider the rule referred to should be withdrawn.

## LAND PURCHASE ACTS (ADVANCES).

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any of the ten millions voted for land purchase under the Purchase Acts of 1885 and 1888 still remains unissued; what the amount of the advances sanctioned under the Act of 1891 up to the present date is; and, how much of the last-mentioned advances are now represented by guaranteed land stock and how much by consols?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Of the £10,000,000 voted for land purchase under the Land Purchase Acts of 1885 and 1888 the sum of £9,979,220 has been issued; the sum of £20,780 still unissued comprises applications to the amount of about £10,000 which have not yet been either sanctioned or refused, while the remainder represents offers which have been made to the Land Judge for the purchase of estates for sale in his Court, but where the purchase has not yet been finally completed. Loans amounting to £2,683,805 have been sanctioned under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, up to June 30th last. Of the amount so sanctioned loans amounting to £2,479,064 guaranteed land stock have up to this date been issued under the last-mentioned Act, and, with the exception of a small sum—about £2,300—that has been cancelled, the entire of this stock is in existence. The National Debt Commissioners, however, hold £1,558,862 of this stock, which has been exchanged for an equal nominal amount of consols as provided by section 15 (2) of the Act of 1891.

## POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS (COUNTY ANTRIM).

MR. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, with reference to an influentially-signed memorial, recently forwarded to him, about the very unsatisfactory postal arrangements with the district of Ballinlea, Moyarget, County Antrim, whether he has yet made inquiry into the matter, and with what result?

MR. HANBURY: Inquiry has been made as to the possibility of improving the postal arrangements at Moyarget and Ballinlea, as suggested in the Memorial recently forwarded by the hon. Member. It is found, however, that even the existing service to Moyarget and Ballinlea is conducted at a loss, and the desired improvement could not be effected without largely increasing the deficit. The Postmaster General regrets that he is therefore unable to meet the wishes of the memoralists?

## POOR LAW VALUATION (DOWNPATRICK).

MR. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether he is aware that the gross poor law valuation of the holding of Mr. James Bailie, of Portlinghan, in the union of Downpatrick, is £240; that in May, 1889, his fair rent was fixed at £120; and that, notwithstanding the admittedly reduced value of his farm, he is still obliged to pay rates and taxes on an amount double the annual value of his farm; (2) whether he is aware that generally in the north of Ireland the poor law valuation of an agricultural holding is very much in excess of the actual value; and (3), whether he will make inqniry with the view of having this state of affairs remedied?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The facts appear to be as stated in the first paragraph. The area of the holding is 220 acres, and the valuation of the buildings on the holding, and comprised in the total valuation of £240, is £20. I believe that in the north of Ireland the rateable valuation of land is frequently higher than the judicial rental. There is no power under the Valuation Acts to alter the valuation of land. I hope to look further into the general question during the Recess.

## IRISH MAIL SERVICE.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will give an undertaking that the proposed arrangements for the new postal service between Ireland and England will not be put in force without an opportunity being given for discussing the same in Parliament next Session?

Mr. HANBURY: It would not be possible to carry out the accelerated service between Ireland and England on the 1st April next if the suggestion of the hon. Member for West Kerry were adopted and the arrangements were to be left undecided until next Session.

Sir T. ESMONDE: As this is a matter of very great importance, might I ask whether an opportunity will be given for discussing it before the end of the Session?

Mr. HANBURY: I am afraid not, as I do not think there is any Vote or Estimate upon which the opportunity would arise.

Sir T. ESMONDE: As this arrangement is most unsatisfactory, we shall have to consider what steps should be taken.

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.): Might I ask whether the right hon. Gentleman would give an undertaking that these arrangements will not be entered into prior to the proposed conference on the subject between the Post Office Department and the various public bodies interested?

Mr. HANBURY: I will find out whether the Post Office can give that assurance, but I cannot personally give it now.

Mr. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, with reference to the proposed changes in the mail service between Dublin and London—(1) whether he will insist on the saving of an hour on all the four services between Euston and Kingstown; (2) whether he will arrange that the time so saved will be utilised by making the hour of leaving one hour later in all the mail services except the night train from Euston; and (3) whether he will embrace the opportunity for providing third class accommodation for passengers on the mail trains between Holyhead and Euston?

Mr. HANBURY: I answered a similar Question yesterday. The main objection to delaying the departure of the mails for an hour, either from Dublin or from London is, in the first place, that it would cost a great deal of trouble to the Post Office to have the delivery an hour later in London or in Dublin; and, in the next place, by delaying these trains an hour a connection would be missed at Cheshire with Warrington and the North; and as one train certainly from London carries both the Scotch and the Irish mails, the proposed delay would necessitate having an extra train.

Mr. FLYNN asked for an answer to the portion of his Question having reference to the saving on the four services between Euston and Kingstown.

Mr. HANBURY: The Post Office will insist on saving half an hour by the boat, and, as I have already explained, there is to be a saving of half an hour by the railway.

Mr. FLYNN requested an answer to the third paragraph of his Question.

MR. HANBURY: No; the Postmaster General has no power to enforce that.

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): Will pressure be brought to bear upon the London and North Western Railway Company to provide similar facilities on their line as are provided all over the country on other lines?

MR. HANBURY: As a matter of fact, the Irish mails are carried more rapidly than the Scotch.

### YEOMANRY CAVALRY (LONG SERVICE MEDAL).

VISCOUNT VALENTIA (Oxford): I beg to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the War Office, whether Her Majesty's Government will consider the strong claims of the Yeomanry Cavalry to a special long service decoration and medal; and, if not, why this honour, conferred upon Volunteers, is withheld from the Yeomanry Cavalry?

MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS: This question has been considered on several occasions; and it has been decided that the medal and decoration for long service shall not be given to the Yeomanry Cavalry. The force differs from the Volunteers in that it is a paid force like the Militia and regular Army. There is the further reason that it is not considered desirable to encourage yeomen to serve so long as 20 years; which in most cases exceeds the limits of efficiency.

### RATE COLLECTION (IRELAND).

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been directed to the resolution passed unanimously by the South Dublin Board of Guardians in last September, asking the Government to take into consideration the cost of collecting poor rates and other rates by the Collector General's Department, and requesting them to pass a Bill granting power to the Guardians to collect their own poor rates or to employ other public bodies to do so for them; and whether he will introduce legislation on the matter next Session?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: My attention has been drawn to the resolution refered to. I can only repeat the statement already communicated to the Guardians, that the matter is not one with which the Government can undertake to deal.

### ARMY SUPPLIES (FOREIGN).

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office, whether he can state the average annual amount for the past five years paid by the Treasury for supplies of foreign meat, corn, hay, and straw imported from other countries for the use of Her Majesty's troops and horses; and whether it is the intention of the Government to support and continue this system?

MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS: It has been repeatedly explained that the amount paid for foreign meat and forage cannot be stated, inasmuch as in the contracts for meat a collective price is paid, the contractor being at liberty to supply foreign meat up to 60 per cent. of the whole; while in forage contracts a standard of quality is fixed, but the place of origin is not inquired into. As previously stated, the question of continuing the present system is under consideration.

### FAIR RENT APPLICATIONS (IRELAND).

MR. EDWARD M'HUGH: (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of fair rent applications in respect of the second judicial term which have been made to the Land Commission, and also the number of such applications already made to the county courts in Ireland; and, if he will further state the additional number of tenants who will be entitled to make such application on the 1st November next?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The number of applications to fix fair rents for a second statutory term made direct to the Land Commission was 879 up to 22nd instant, and to the Civil Bill Courts 193, of which 97 have been transferred to the Land Commission. As I have already pointed out, the Land Commission have no means of ascertaining the number of tenants who will be entitled to apply to have judicial rents fixed for a second term on any stated date.

## ENGLISH AND IRISH MAILS.

*MR. MICHAEL FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the English and Irish mails due in Limerick from Dublin at 10.35 a.m. are frequently delayed at Limerick Junction and do not reach Limerick before 1.25 p.m.; that this delay at Limerick Junction causes still greater delay in the delivery of mails to the towns of Rathkeale, Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, and Listowel and other towns on the North Kerry line, and also on the other side to towns situated as far as the Athenry and West Clare Railway; whether, owing to this delay, letters which should reach Listowel at 1.20 p.m. do not arrive there before 8 p.m., when they cannot be answered on the same day; and whether, considering the very grave loss and inconvenience to the public which this delay involves in so many towns in the south-west of Ireland, he will make inquiry into the matter with the view of having this unnecessary delay avoided?

MR. HANBURY: The results of a failure of junction between the day mail train from Dublin to Cork and the day mail train from Limerick Junction to Limerick are accurately described by the hon. Member, and in making any new arrangements with the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company the Department will consider whether a larger margin at Limerick Junction should not be provided with a view to reducing to a minimum the number of failures.

*MR. FLAVIN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that all important letters from England, Dublin and Belfast, arrive in the greater portions of of Kerry and Limerick eight hours late, that therefore the replies are necessarily 16 hours late, and whether this is not a long standing grievance?

MR. HANBURY: That may be so, but, as I have said, new arrangements will be made with the Company almost immediately.

## CONSTABULARY STATION (CARNLOUGH, COUNTY ANTRIM).

MR. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a memorial from Carnlough, county Antrim, signed by the clergymen of different denominations, the magistrates, and the leading inhabitants of the district, asking for the establishment of a constabulary station in that town, has been presented to the Lord Lieutenant; whether he is aware that the import and export trade for last year exceeded 75,000 tons, that there are 200 working men engaged at the quarries and other works in the vicinity, and that the town is situate on the coast along the much frequented road between Glenarm and Cushendall; and, whether, considering that Carnlough is a promising fishing station, and is rapidly becoming one of the most favourite summer resorts in the North of Ireland, he will consider the desirability of having a police station established there with as little delay as possible.

MR. R. T. O'NEILL (Antrim, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that a memorial was sent to the Lord Lieutenant from the inhabitants of Carnlough, in the county of Antrim, asking that a police station should be established there, and stating that the police from the nearest station at Glenarm are not always available when disturbances occur; that the prayer of the memorial was refused, on the ground that the police at Glenarm are sufficient to deal with the disorder that must occasionally arise at a seaport town like Carnlough; and, whether, considering that the memorial was signed by leading inhabitants of all classes and creeds and politics who are best qualified to judge of the requirements of the neighbourhood, he will cause further inquiries to be made and take steps to supply the wants?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: In reply to this Question and the next standing in the name of my hon. Friend, the Member for Mid Antrim, the memorial referred to has been received and the statements of fact in both questions are substantially accurate. The Divisional Commissioner has personally inquired into the matter, and he considers that the arrangements for additional patrolling by Cyclists which have now been made will quite meet the case, and that at present there is no necessity for the establishment of a police barrack.

## LOANS TO FISHERMEN (IRELAND).

**Mr. P. J. POWER** (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, with the object of enabling fishermen in Ireland to provide themselves with better fishing boats and gear, and in view of the condition of the money market, the Treasury can make loans to fishermen on easier terms than those now offered?

**Mr. HANBURY**: As the rate of interest on such loans is already as low as 2½ per cent., I cannot hold out any hope of still further reductions.

## VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF.

**Dr. FARQUHARSON** (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a good deal of dissatisfaction exists in the Volunteer Medical Staff at the withholding from them of the outfit grant of £10 on appointment, and the further grant of £10, after passing through a course of instruction, allowed to their combatant brethren; and, will he endeavour to secure uniformity of treatment in this matter?

**Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS**: The outfit allowance to combatant volunteer officers was granted in order that it might reduce the difficulty in obtaining officers. The conditions as regards medical officers are not similar.

## LANDING OF LIVE CATTLE AT BELFAST.

**Sir JOHN KINLOCH** (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether it is the case that the English Board of Agriculture have advised the Irish Agricultural Department to prohibit the landing of live cattle at Belfast to be slaughtered, under the provisions of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, as it might lead to the introduction of disease; and, if so, why are live cattle allowed to be landed in Great Britain?

***The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Walter Long, Liverpool, West Derby): In reply to inquiries addressed to the Board of Agriculture by the Irish Government as to the proposed establishment of a foreign animals wharf at Belfast, it was pointed out that our experience in the past in Great Britain had shown that such wharves must necessarily be attended with a certain risk of the introduction of disease, whilst the small extent of the trade expected, and the fact that fat cattle are exported from Ireland in very large numbers, went to show that no real necessity for a wharf existed. The requirements of Great Britain and Ireland in regard to foreign animals are in no way similar, and any arrangement which might result in the interruption of the Irish export trade is obviously open to the very gravest objection.

**Mr. G. W. WOLFF** (Belfast, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, (1) whether the refusal by the Irish Executive to grant the joint application of the Ulster Steamship Company, Limited (trading with Canada), and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners, for permission to erect a foreign animals wharf at Belfast, under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, for the slaughtering of animals on arrival, was due to the action of the Board of Agriculture in London, to whom the matter had been referred from Dublin; (2) whether such wharves are, with the sanction and approval of the Board of Agriculture, established at Liverpool, Glasgow, Bristol, Deptford, and several other of the large shipping ports of the United Kingdom; (3) whether any cases of transmission of disease to British cattle from such wharves have been reported; and, if so, from where, and when; (4) whether he is aware that all cattle shipped from Canada are subjected to a rigorous examination before shipment. and also that the Canadian authorities absolutely deny the existence of pleuropneumonia in the Dominion of Canada; and, (5) whether, in view of the disadvantages to which Belfast is subjected in comparison with other large seaports, both of England and Scotland, by the refusal to allow cattle to be imported, he will advise the Executive in Dublin to reconsider their decision?

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR**: The Irish Government consulted the Board of Agriculture in this matter, but of course they acted on their own responsibility. The inquiries in the second, third, and fourth paragraphs of my hon. Friend's Question should be addressed to the President of the Board of Agriculture. As regards the last paragraph, I can only say that the whole matter has received the most careful and anxious consideration of the Irish Government, who are unable, in the interests of the cattle trade in Belfast and Ireland generally, to alter the decision already arrived at.

MR. WOLFF: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether representations have been made to him by the High Commissioner for Canada protesting against the entire prohibition of the importation of Canadian cattle into Ireland, which would be the effect of the refusal to allow the establishment of a Foreign animals' wharf at Belfast; and, if so, whether he will use his influence to induce the Irish Executive to reconsider their decision?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN Birmingham, W.): A representation was made to me by the High Commissioner on the subject, which was duly transmitted to the Irish Office, and received the careful consideration of her Majesty's Government, who regret, however, that they are unable to reconsider their decision in the matter.

## CHARGE OF MURDER (COUNTY SLIGO.)

MR. JASPER TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether his attention has been directed to the case of Michael Muldowney, a prisoner serving a sentence of penal servitude for life, who, after two trials, in the first of which the jury disagreed, was convicted by a special jury in Sligo in 1884 for an agrarian murder; and, (2) whether, seeing that other prisoners convicted at the same time on the evidence of the same two informers for participation in the same offence, were let off with sentences of 10 years' penal servitude, and in view of the elements of great doubt in the case, and of the fact that Muldowney has been now 12 years in prison, he will recommend to His Excellency the propriety of reconsidering all the circumstances connected with this case, and advising a mitigation of Muldowney's sentence?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Muldowney was convicted of murder in July, 1884, and sentenced to death; the sentence, however, was commuted to penal servitude for life. There had been a disagreement of the jury on the occasion of the first trial of the convict. The second paragraph is based on a misapprehension of the facts. Five others were charged at the same time as Muldowney, and one of these was likewise convicted and sentenced to death, though in this case also the sentence was commuted to one of penal servitude for life. A *nolle prosequi* was entered in the cases of the other four prisoners, and there were no persons sentenced to 10 years penal servitude for participation in the offence. The Judge who tried Muldowney has reported that he was convicted on evidence which, in his opinion, was clear and conclusive. It is not within my province to recommend the exercise of the prerogative of mercy.

## PRESERVATION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AT SEA.

MR. ALFRED THOMAS (Glamorgan, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the state of the law in respect of loading and manning ships, he will use the means at his disposal to ascertain whether the mercantile nations of the world would join in promoting a Congress to consider, discuss, and recommend to the several nations represented uniform regulations for the better preservation of life and property at sea?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. C.T. RITCHIE, Croydon): Our experience of conferences of this kind is that they are attended with many difficulties, and I doubt the expediency of promoting such a one at present.

## TELEGRAPHISTS' LEAVE.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain for what reason a notice has recently been posted at the Central Telegraph Office stating that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have decided that the maximum amount of sick leave and ordinary leave combined which an officer may have on full pay in any one year shall be strictly limited to six months, although it has hitherto been the practice to exclude ordinary leave in computing the period during which full pay in sickness is given?

*Mr. HANBURY: The Civil Service Orders in Council of 1890 allowed a period not exceeding six months' continuous sick-leave on full pay to the upper and second divisions. A Treasury Circular of May 1892, expressed the opinion that the six months on full pay in any one year should include all sick leave and ordinary holidays. In April 1896, the Treasury decided that abstractors and assistant clerks, whose total leave and sick-leave on full pay had been limited to a period not exceeding six weeks, should have that maximum extended to six months. The Post Office thereupon issued the notice referred to in the Question, having apparently omitted hitherto to circulate the Treasury decision of 1892.

## SLAUGHTER OF FOREIGN CATTLE (UNITED STATES AND ARGENTINE).

Mr. R. ASCROFT (Oldham): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture when the requirement of slaughter at the port of landing was first imposed in the case of United States and Argentine cattle; what was the number of such cattle imported into the United Kingdom in the four years preceding the imposition of slaughter, and in the four years 1892 to 1895; and, what was the amount of dead meat (beef and mutton) imported in the periods 1881 to 1885, 1886 to 1890, 1891 to 1895, inclusive?

*Mr. LONG: United States cattle have been required to be slaughtered at the port of landing since March 1879, and Argentine have always been subject to that requirement. The number of cattle imported from the United States was approximately 300 in 1875, 400 in 1876, 11,500 in 1877, and 68,000 in 1878. In the last four years the numbers have been 397,000 in 1892, 249,000 in 1893, 381,000 in 1894, and 274,000 in 1895. Very few Argentine cattle were imported prior to 1891. In that year we received about 4,000 head; in 1892, 3,500; in 1893, 6,900; in 1894, 9,500; and in 1895, nearly 39,000. The imports of beef averaged about 1,000,000 cwt. in the period 1881–1885, 1,300,000 in 1886–1890, and 2,700,000 cwt. in 1881–1895. No figures are available as to the imports of mutton in 1881–1885. In 1886–1890 they averaged rather over 1,000,000 cwt., and in 1891–1895 2,150,000 cwt.

## PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

Mr. ASCROFT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture what was the number of cattle and sheep in the United Kingdom at the date of the last Return, and what their estimated value; what has been the amount paid as compensation for cattle slaughtered to prevent the spread of pleuro-pneumonia in each year since the passing of the Pleuro-Pneumonia Act of 1890; and, at what rate is such compensation payable?

*Mr. LONG: There were 10,753,000 cattle and 29,775,000 sheep in the United Kingdom at the date of the last Return. No official estimate of their value exists, but if £9 per head in the case of cattle and £1 per head in the case of sheep be taken as a fair average, the value of the cattle would be nearly £97,000,000, and that of the sheep £30,000,000. Compensation for cattle slaughtered to prevent the spread of pleuro-pneumonia is payable where the animal is found to be affected with the disease at the rate of three-fourths of the value of the animal before it became so affected, with a maximum of £30. In every other case the full value is paid, with a maximum of £40. The amounts paid in Great Britain only by way of compensation have been £128,000 in 1890, £146,000 in 1891, £43,000 in 1892, £18,000 in 1893, £6,000 in 1894, and £145 in 1895.

## LIGHTHOUSE ILLUMINANTS.

Mr. HORACE PLUNKETT (Dublin Co., S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the Report of Sir Robert Ball, F.R.S., Scientific Adviser to the Commissioners of Irish Lights, respecting a continuous pulsating lighthouse gaslight for first-order lighthouses inspected in practical operation by Sir Robert, and also the letters which have passed between the Trinity House, the Commissioners of Irish Lights, and others, respecting Sir Robert's Report, and describing the recent trials of that form of light made by the Trinity House at Blackwall?

Mr. RITCHIE: The Board of Trade have not received any copy of the Report referred to.

### INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (QUEENSTOWN).

CAPTAIN DONELAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether, in view of the unsatisfactory state of the law in regard to the admission of children to industrial schools, as disclosed in the case of Anne Barnett, tried before Mr. Justice Holmes at the recent Cork Assizes, he will consider the desirability of making such alteration as will prevent any repetition of the steps taken by the Head Constable at Queenstown to secure the admisson of children to an industrial school?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: There can be no doubt that committals to industrial schools are not infrequently made contrary to the spirit of the law, but the fault appears to lie rather with the administration of the law than with the law itself. Such a case as that referred to in the Question is of rare occurrence in connection with a constabulary officer; but it is to be feared that children are too frequently sent out with instructions to beg, in order that the magistrates may be induced to commit them to an industrial school. Apart from this particular case, the matter has already engaged my attention, and a circular was recently issued to magistrates sitting in Petty Sessions, pointing out the advisability of adjourning applications for committal to industrial schools pending the necessary inquiries as to the merits of the case.

### LOCAL LOANS STOCK.

MR. J. J. SHEE (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what are the actual rates of interest at which the Treasury have borrowed money since 1890 for the Local Loans Fund, and what are the actual dividends they have been paying on Local Loans Stock?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The interest fixed by law on the Local Loans Stock is 3 per cent. No Local Loans Stock has been issued since 1890—the repayments have sufficed for fresh borrowings.

### ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY (WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT).

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he explain why it is that the sergeants and acting sergeants of the Royal Irish Constabulary, who have discharged certain duties as *ex officio* inspectors under the Weights and Measures Act, have not received the remuneration to which they are entitled?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: There has been no unnecessary delay in the payment of grants to the *ex officio* Inspectors of Weights and Measures. Proposals have been made and are now before the Treasury with a view to a moderate increase in the remuneration of these officials, and the orders for payment will be issued as soon as practicable.

### CONSTABULARY REGULATIONS (IRELAND).

MR. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin Co. N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that at the Petty Sessions held in Edenderry, King's County, on the 15th instant, charges were preferred against several parties by constables who were unable to attend in court to prosecute them; that in their absence the head constable of the district took upon himself the duty of acting as complainant, calling and examining witnesses; and, whether such a practice is sanctioned by the Constabulary Regulations; and, if not, what notice he intends taking of the matter?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The nominal complainants being absent on duty the head constable, with the permission of the Bench and the full concurrence of the defendants, proceeded to call the witnesses who proved the charge. The head constable did not examine any of the witnesses. There was nothing illegal in this course, nor was it contrary to the police regulations, and it was adopted for the convenience of the defendants, in order to spare them the trouble of attending on a second occasion.

### BERRIEW SCHOOL.

MR. J. G. TALBOT (Oxford University): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can repeat the assurance given to the House on the 3rd

September 1895 that opportunity should be given for considering a Bill having for its object to provide that the scheme for the Berriew School shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament in the manner prescribed by law?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I shall be quite prepared to repeat the assurance for which my hon. Friend asks.

## VACCINATION (ROYAL COMMISSION).

MR. TALBOT: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether there is any nearer prospect of a Report from the Royal Commission on Vaccination, which has not been sitting for several years, so that the uncertainty which prevails in the public mind upon this question may be removed?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: The Report is being prepared with all possible speed.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. H. C. F. LUTTRELL (Devon, Tavistock: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he could give information as to what Bills would be proceeded with on Monday should time permit?

SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN (Glasgow, Bridgeton) asked when the Scotch Rating Bill would be proceeded with?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I have considered the whole course of business in the immediate future, and I have come to the conclusion that it will be for the convenience of the House that the following business should be taken and in the order named. On Monday I propose to take the following Bills:—Uganda, Conciliation, Coal Mines, Truck, Locomotives, Telegraphs (Money) Finance. On Tuesday I propose to take the Report, and I am even bold enough to hope the Third reading of the Irish Land Bill. [*Nationalist cheers.*] On Wednesday and Thursday I shall complete the stages of the smaller and less controversial Measures of the Government, and on Monday week I shall take the Committee stage of the Scotch Rating Bill and continue that until it be finished.

*Mr. J. G. Talbot.*

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) suggested that it was time they should know what course the Government intended to take with regard to the Irish Equivalent Grants Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: My own strong impression is that that Bill would be a suspensory Bill —keeping the money.

MR. DILLON said he thought he could speak for the Irish Members when he said they could not agree to that. It was a very contentious matter. He should have no objection to its being a suspensory Bill himself so long as opportunity was given for its being properly discussed.

MR. LUTTRELL asked what non-controversial Bills would be proceeded with on Tuesday, supposing there was time?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: The Bills I have mentioned for Monday will be put down for Tuesday if they are not finished on the former day.

SIR G. TREVELYAN asked if it was intended to take the Finance Bill in case it was not reached on Monday in reasonable time; also in case the Irish Estimates were finished by Twelve or half-past Twelve to-night whether any other business would be taken?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: If we are fortunate enough to get through the Irish Estimates about the time mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman I think the best thing the House can do is to go to bed. [*Cheers.*] I should not take the Finance Bill at an unreasonable hour.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT asked what Estimate would be taken next Friday?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: We begin on Class II., and take the Home Office Vote first.

## IRISH TREASON-FELONY PRISONERS.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he would consider the question of advising Her Majesty the Queen to exercise Her Royal clemency by granting a free pardon to the Irish treason felony prisoners on the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne?

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT asked whether it was not the invariable custom among the European Powers to exercise the prerogative of clemency on occasions of this kind, and whether Her Majesty's Government could be equally magnanimous with the European Powers?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I am afraid I cannot answer the latter question, as I am not aware how the facts stand. With regard to the first question I have nothing to add to the general statement of policy I have already made, and it is manifest, as the hon. Gentleman will see, that the time has not arrived for considering what ought or ought not to be done on the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign.

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

## SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

### NINETEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

> "That a sum not exceeding £616,077 (including a Supplementary sum of £3,375) be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland."

[Progress, 17th July.]

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) said the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (17th July) on the question of the arrears of the fee grant which were due to Ireland rendered it impossible for the Government to remain in their attitude of refusal to pay. The position was curiously analogous to that taken up by the Treasury in regard to the land stock. It was exactly the same principle—heads I win, tails you lose. If an arrangement worked unfavourably to Ireland, Ireland must accept it; but if, owing to an alteration in circumstances, it appeared that Ireland would profit by the arrangement forced upon Ireland by the Treasury, then the arrangement must be changed to the detriment of Ireland. In illustration of the fact that the Treasury were continually on the watch to defraud Ireland and Scotland of their fair proportions of the grant, he directed attention to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech, which had evoked much interest in Ireland. When he came into office the right hon. Gentleman said that he examined carefully the whole situation, and he arrived at the conclusion that the course adopted by the Treasury was not a just one, and that the Board of Education in Ireland would have got more than was granted if they had asked for it. As a matter of fact, the right hon. Gentleman said they had got, during the three years complained of, all the money they had asked for. The Secretary to the Treasury admitted that an injustice had been done, that Ireland had not obtained her full share of this grant, and asserted that the fault was that of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, who failed to obtain what Ireland was entitled to. The arrears had been refused on the ground that the financial transactions for that period were closed.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston) said that with reference to the first two years, all that had been asked for had been paid, but there was the year 1894-5 when the Commissioners asked for the full nine-eightieths in time from the late Treasury, and it was not granted.

MR. DILLON maintained that the Commissioners did their best to ask for it, and were met by a refusal from the Treasury. Besides, it was not their duty to ask for it; it was the duty of the Treasury and the Irish Government to see that Ireland got all that she was entitled to. The contention that the Treasury was debarred from opening up the closed accounts, even though an injustice had been done to Ireland, was disposed of by the Estimates for the present year. A claim was made early last spring by the Commissioners owing to the Supplementary Estimate presented to Parliament for the English Education Vote. They were entitled to £3,400 in excess of what they received the previous year, and although the financial year was allowed to close and all the accounts were finished without a Supplementary Estimate for the sum this year, in the new financial year the Secretary to the Treasury had presented an Estimate for £3,000 due in respect of the last financial year. Thus the argument was disposed of that it was not competent for the Treasury to open up past financial transactions. There appeared to be a dispute about the correct sum at stake, but let the Committee take it at £100,000. If this was considered by the Treasury to be a small sum the fact was only an additional argument in favour of settling the question. It was largely a question of sentiment and of feeling, though of great importance to the National teachers of Ireland. He called the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the very remarkable letters published by the Archbishop of Dublin since the last Debate, designed to show in opposition to the right hon. Gentleman that formal application had been made to the Treasury and refused, that in 1894 Ireland was entitled to £234,000 but only received £210,000, and that the Commissioners called attention to the fact that the Scottish grant for the year had been paid on the proportionate principle and refused to Ireland. Was the right hon. Gentleman able frankly to say that the policy of the Treasury was a continuous policy? Did he repudiate the policy of his predecessor?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I do not repudiate it.

MR. DILLON: But you have admitted that an injustice was done. ["Hear, hear!"] Was it worth while for a mere £100,000, or some trifle over, to persist in a wrong? Let them frankly admit the wrong and remedy it.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said he troubled the House on this matter for a few minutes the other day. He was then very much pressed for time, and was unable to state fully the position of the Treasury. He must entirely decline the responsibility which the hon. Member attempted to place upon him. He was not responsible for the action of the Treasury under his predecessor in office, nor were the permanent officers responsible. He was only responsible while he was Chancellor of the Exchequer and no longer, and, as the hon. Member had admitted, he had taken action which should have been taken by the late Government. But it was open to the Irish Members to question the conduct of the late Government on this subject.

MR. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry), said they had done so.

MR. DILLON said a successful attempt was made to question the late Government, because this change was initiated as a result of the questions of the hon. Member for Derry.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said no serious attempt had been made by the hon. Members opposite to obtain from the late Government those arrears which they were now asking him to provide. He should say, on the part of the Treasury, that the hon. Gentleman was not quite fair in his suggestion as to the motives that actuated that Department. He suggested that the policy of the Treasury was one of "Heads I win, tails you lose," and that it had carried out this policy with regard to the fee grant as well as with regard to the proposal in the Irish Land Bill to substitute cash for Land Stock. The Treasury repudiated any desire to act unfairly towards any part of the United Kingdom. The proposal with reference to Land Stock came from the Irish Office, and not from the Treasury, and it was the original suggestion of the Scotch Education Department that the change to the ten shillings grant should be made. The hon. Member said it was a simple matter to pay the arrears now asked for. That was not so. He demurred to the statement in the report of the National Board with reference to the amount of the arrears. But even they only asked for £72,000, and the difference between that and the sum of £120,000 named by hon. Members arose from the fact that the National Board did not include one-fourth of the grant for 1892–3 which had not been paid in the course of that financial year.

MR. DILLON said he accepted the figures of the Archbishop of Dublin.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said, with all respect to the Archbishop of Dublin, he was wrong. What happened in 1892–3 was this. The Act named a certain sum as Ireland's share of the fee grant, but only three-fourths of the sum was paid to Ireland in the course of the financial year at the instance of the Commissioners of National Education themselves, because the conditions under which they paid the teachers made it impossible for them to pay the whole amount in the financial year 1892–3. The payment due to the teachers for the last quarter of the year fell into the next year's account. There had been no loss to Ireland in that matter.

MR. KNOX: Will you pay it to us now?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said, if Parliament decided to stop this fee grant for the United Kingdom, on March 31st next, what would happen would be that neither England nor Scotland would receive any more after that date, but a quarter's grant would be paid to Ireland after the close of the present financial year. The arrears which were claimed by the National Board amounted to £72,000, the greater part of which sum represented the difference between the amounts actually voted to Ireland by Parliament for the years 1892–3, 1893–4 and 1894-5, as compared with 9-80ths of the sum voted in the original and Supplementary Estimates for England and Wales for those years. He had shown by his own action that in his opinion it was fair under that system, from which they had now departed, that Ireland should receive 9-80ths of the original and Supplementary Estimates of the fee grant for England, and that had been done for 1895-6. The hon. Member said that because £3,375, which should properly have been voted in 1895-6, would be actually voted in 1896-7, therefore any arrears in previous years should be treated in the same way. His reply was that this £3,375 was really part of the sum which would be due to the teachers for the quarter ending March 31st 1896, and which would only become payable in the first quarter of the present year. Therefore, it was not an arrear in the sense in which the hon. Member suggested. The hon. Member then stated that he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had alleged that it was the fault of the National Board that they did not receive these sums for 1893-4 and 1894-5 in the course of those years, and he said that the Board had asked for them at the proper time. He (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) still maintained that they had not done so. What they did was to write to the Irish Government in the autumn of 1894, calling attention to the fact that they did not receive what they considered a proper amount for the current or the previous year, and asking that the grant for 1895-6 should be put at £234,000 instead of £210,000 (which was done), and also that arrears should be paid to them for the previous years.

MR. DILLON asked whether it was not the fact that in 1893 the Treasury wrote that under the official interpretation of the Act, the National Board was only entitled to £210,000?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER did not believe that that was so. At that time the National Commissioners had not made the request which they subsequently made in November 1894. However, he did not want to press that point. The statement he had just made he believed to be the actual fact, but whether it was so or not, it had no material bearing upon the question at issue. They had now changed the system. They had given the full grant asked for by the National Board for 1895-6, and acting under legal advice, they had altered the system in the manner originally suggested by the Scotch Education Department, so as to place it on a much fairer basis—namely, that each of the three countries should receive 10s. for each child in average attendance. That being so, the hon. Member asked that this sum of £70,000, or whatever it might be, should be given by way of back pay to the teachers who happened to be in the service in 1892-3, 1893-4 and 1894-5. That did not seem to him a reasonable way of utilising this money. He admitted Ireland had a claim to the money, but it would be infinitely better and more appropriate that it should be devoted to increasing the solvency of the Teachers'

Pension Fund, which was now practically bankrupt.

MR. KNOX: What about the Convent teachers?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said they were very few, and they were paid by results. He could not admit there was any claim on the part of individual teachers for this payment. He looked upon it as a debt due from the Exchequer to the cause of education in Ireland. Individual teachers had what Parliament had voted for them in the years in question. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose admitted it was amply sufficient, and, as a matter of fact, in each of the three years 1892-3, 1893-4, and 1894-5 the National Education Commissioners returned an unexpended balance of £582 for the first year, £3,035 for the second, and £867 for the third year. What they proposed was that a grant of £10,000 should be given towards the deficiency in the Pension Fund. If they could not allocate a further sum to that fund, what would happen to the teachers would be either that the benefits they anticipated from that fund would be reduced, or that their contributions would have to be increased. Their proposal to give £10,000 a year to the Pension Fund would help to make that fund solvent, and they would be able in that way to benefit the teachers far more than by giving them back payments. That was the simple policy they proposed. He had looked into this matter with great care, and he had endeavoured to act impartially, and he believed this to be the proper way of dealing with this sum which he was anxious should be devoted to Irish purposes. He hoped the Committee would agree to that suggestion.

MR. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.) said that the admission of the right hon. Gentleman was a very valuable one indeed, for he had now admitted that there was a debt due to Ireland for these years, 1893-4 and 1894-5. That was exactly what the Irish Members were fighting for the other night.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: I admitted it then.

MR. CLANCY: Yes; but at the end of a rather angry Debate. The Irish Members were content with the right hon. Gentleman's admission that there was a debt due to Ireland of some amount at all events, and the only really practical question before the Committee was, how was that amount to be made good? The right hon. Gentleman proposed to make it good by subsidising the Teachers' Pension Fund. He did not recognise that as an equivalent at all. Why was that fund bankrupt? Its bankruptcy was due to an actuarial miscalculation by the Treasury. At any rate, the official who committed that blunder was appointed by the Government, and the Government were, therefore, morally responsible for it, and for the bankruptcy that had resulted from it. He did not at all admit that £10,000 a year to the Teachers' Pension Fund would make up for the money which the right hon. Gentleman admitted was due to Ireland. That fund did not bring any benefit to the teachers in Convent schools. The right hon. Gentleman said that they were few in number; but whether they were few or many they ought to be paid. He had no intention of blaming the present Chancellor of the Exchequer or the present Secretary to the Treasury. They were only now carrying out what their predecessors had neglected to carry out. It was their predecessors that he blamed, and the indictment the Irish Members had brought against them had been proved up to the hilt. Still, even if the right hon. Gentleman was not responsible for the action of his predecessors, he was now in such a position that he was bound to make up this sum. He would not have hesitated to attack the late Government if he had known in time of what he could only call their nefarious transactions.

MR. G. W. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) said this was a rare occasion when he found himself entirely in accord with hon. Members opposite. ["Hear, hear!"] Differing from them as he did upon almost every point of politics, it was somewhat of a treat now to be able to agree with them. Very full were they of Irish grievances, and with the greater part of their complaints he had no sympathy, but there could be no doubt whatever that this withholding of education grants from Ireland was a grievance of which Irishmen had good cause to complain. The amount was not large in itself, but it was considerable from an Irish point of view and as a

Unionist he felt keenly on the point. The grievance was real and could easily be redressed, and it would be a great mistake on the part of the Government not to take the opportunity of satisfying hon. Gentlemen opposite. That this money had been withheld had been admitted on all sides, and now with his admission the right hon. Gentleman promised to make it good with a grant of £10,000 to the Teachers' Pension Fund. Of this fund surely he had heard on more than one occasion that if ever it approached a state of bankruptcy the Treasury would come to its aid, so that the fund would be assisted by the Government anyhow. [" Hear, hear ! "] No doubt the £10,000 to the fund would be an advantage, but really there was no guarantee that the grant would be continued beyond the present year, certainly, there was no assurance that it would become a permanent charge. It could not be foreseen how long his right hon. Friends would continue in occupation of the Treasury Bench. [" Hear, hear ! "] It could not be foreseen at what interval the real friends of Ireland, as they were called, would return to power and resume the policy of robbing Ireland on the quiet they had pursued hitherto. He was not, therefore, satisfied, though he fully appreciated the desire of his right hon. Friend to make this reparation for the sins of his predecessors. There was not sufficient guarantee that Ireland would get back the money she had lost, and something more should be done than this £10,000 and the promise for the future. It would be a graceful action, and much appreciated by the Irish people if a grant were at once made of the whole amount due.

Mr. KNOX said that as he pressed this matter upon the attention of successive Governments, he felt some gratification at having at last from the representative of the Treasury a practical admission of this claim. He supposed that he had asked some hundreds of questions on this matter from time to time, and he had pressed it more than once in Debate, and now there was some prospect of an understanding being arrived at. In the first place, on the part of responsibility, he fully and frankly admitted that the share of the right hon. Gentleman was less than that of his predecessor. He (Mr. Knox) pressed this matter on the attention of the late Chief Secretary in the House in 1894, and in and out of the House he had attempted to force it upon the notice of the Treasury, until the change in the spring of 1895, when another £20,000 was given. He would have pressed it more persistently, but that there were many points of financial detail difficult to grasp and not interesting to Members generally; and it was not until the Archbishop of Dublin, with unrivalled power of clear financial judgment, took up the question and forced it home that it was possible to get Members to understand it. There were other reasons for not pressing it so strongly as it might have been pressed on the late Government, but, so far as he was concerned, he was quite as ready to make the demand upon the late as upon the present Government. Why the right hon. Gentleman was made personally responsible might be explained by applying a commercial analogy quite fitting to the question. Say the Treasury occupies the position of a joint stock company. The directors had changed, the previous directors were responsible for previous short payments. It could not be said the Government or the present directors had left undone anything they ought to have done, but the liability of the company remained, and that was the position of the Treasury. The company had appropriated to its own use money they should have handed over to Ireland. That was the real position ; and, avoiding all personality, the Treasury was a standing commercial concern, and the directors for the time were responsible for the administration of its affairs. The right hon. Gentleman admitted the case to this extent, but he contended that the debt was not due to individual teachers, but to Irish education. Without committing himself to this statement entirely, he admitted that the Government would find considerable difficulty in making the distribution among teachers, and he believed that the teachers themselves were not averse to the principle the right hon. Gentleman had enumerated that this debt should be regarded as a debt to Irish education generally. But would the debt be discharged by the proposed grant to the Pension Fund ? He was not satisfied that it would. Personally he was in a haze still about this Pension

Fund. All he could understand was that the fund was under the direct control of the Treasury. The Commissioners of Education had power to make regulations at the suggestion of the Treasury, and while there was undoubtedly power with the Commissioners to increase pension grants to teachers, as they did upon the Actuarial Report put before them some years ago, they had no power to decrease grants secured to existing teachers. As he understood, it would be considered a breach of faith towards existing teachers who had made contributions year by year, if reductions were made in the payments promised, and on the faith of which promise they had contributed. The position then was this. It would be possible for the Treasury to prevent liabilities accruing to future teachers. The fund was, he understood, barely sufficient to pay existing liabilities, and it would be possible for the Treasury to prevent any future teachers from receiving grants from it, but practically they could scarcely take up such a position. If they did so they would revert to the position in which the teachers stood before the Pension Fund was started. What was the position then? Though there was no pension scheme of that kind, there was a grant made of £9,000 a year.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: £7,000.

Mr. KNOX thought it was £9,000, but say £7,000. This was a grant every year for the Irish teachers. The history of the grant resembled that of many such grants to Ireland. The Imperial Government discovered they had the Irish Church surplus to dispose of, and that by throwing this charge upon it, they could relieve the Estimates. By the fact of establishing the fund the Treasury were saved £7,000 a year. He admitted he was groping in the dark in endeavouring to get at the facts, but here he arrived at the position that if the Treasury exercised as regards the Pension Fund the full extent of its powers, they would stand exactly where they were when they made an annual grant of £7,000. So that the most that could be said of this offer of £10,000 was that it was £3,000 gain, but it was not secured in perpetuity by any Act of Parliament. One other point he wished to allude to. They had got an assurance from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the Teachers' Pension Fund would be made solvent, and that £10,000 a year would be devoted to that purpose. In his opinion it would take double that sum to make the fund solvent, and he thought the Government should tell them plainly whether they meant to give only £10,000 a year, or whether they proposed to devote whatever sum might be necessary to make the fund solvent, which, as he had said, would be much more than the £10,000 a year. What he should ask of him was that they should give an undertaking that they should secure by Act of Parliament in perpetuity a sufficient sum that would make the fund solvent. He would also like to call the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the schools which were not paid from the Pension Fund in the same way, such as the Convent and the Monastery Schools. About one-eighth of the children in average attendance in Irish schools were to be found in Convent or Monastery Schools, and one-fifth of this £155,000 due to the teachers might be said to be due to those schools. It might be said that it would be wasteful to pay down in cash to those schools without some security, the sums to which it was found they were entitled. He suggested that it should be paid to the Convent Schools in order to enable them to improve their machinery of education, or for such other purposes as the National Board might declare to be desirable. He had only to say in conclusion that the Irish Members could not give an answer to the offer made by the Government in regard to the Teachers' Pension Fund, because they had not that offer clearly before them; and he thought it would be well if more light was thrown on the subject from the Treasury Bench.

Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.) said that as a commercial man he could conceive no difficulty in going into the account, ascertaining the exact sum due to the Irish teachers, and the most satisfactory settlement of the question would be to hand the money over to the Commissioners of National Education.

Mr. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, N.) was surprised at the niggling, pettifogging manner in which the Government were dealing with the question. It was not denied that the teachers had been defrauded of a certain sum of money. Why, then, do they not get that money? The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said he was not responsible—that the blame should be laid on the late Government. That was about the shabbiest excuse that could be given, because the present Government had succeeded the late Government, and if the late Government owed a debt, it was the duty of the present Government to pay it. The present Government would not let the Irish people manage their own affairs. It was bad enough for the Irish people to be deprived of their native Parliament without being defrauded by the English Treasury of the money to which they were entitled. But it was only another instance of the way in which every Government, whether Liberal or Tory, treated Ireland. The Chief Secretary had informed him, in reply to questions, that an audit of the teachers' salaries was made every five years, and that if it were found that too much money had been advanced for the purpose, a refund of the balance had to be made to the Treasury. Would it not be, then, but an act of simple justice if the same course were adopted in this case, and the Treasury made to disgorge to the teachers of Ireland the money it owed them. It had been admitted that the late Government were the first to put their hands into the pockets of the teachers; but if the Liberal Party were to obtain Office again, and were to continue the same policy, they should count not on his support, but on his strongest opposition.

*MR. J. H. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) thought that it would be well to accept the present temporary arrangement. Hon. Members assumed that they would get this £78,000 for the teachers as well as an annual grant of £10,000 for the Pension Fund. His experience of the way in which teachers' pension questions had been dealt with led him to doubt very much whether it would be easy to get both those sums for the Irish teachers. If the Government were pressed now they might think it more economical to give the £78,000 as a lump sum; whilst an annual grant of £10,000 would probably be of much more benefit to the teachers. It would be wise to wait until the views of the teachers had been ascertained. They were the real creditors. He hoped the Chief Secretary would give his personal attention to the principle on which the educational work in Irish schools was tested, assessed and remunerated. The question could be dealt with without raising any sectarian, financial, or political difficulties. In Ireland the system of payment by results, which had been abandoned years ago in England and Scotland, was still in full swing. It compelled the teachers to look on the children as mere machines for the grinding out of grants. Each separate subject was tested in the case of each particular child

MR. H. O. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.) agreed that in practical politics the Treasury could not permit the Pension Fund falling to the ground. If the present question had never arisen, and the fund had never become embarrassed as the result of actuarial miscalculation, it would have been the duty of the Minister concerned to submit to Parliament a vote for the necessary pecuniary aid. But the Committee ought to know what were the facts—what was being offered. The calculation in reference to the Pension Fund would shortly be completed, and pending the completion, the present arrangement might be temporarily accepted. He wished for some further explanation of the statement made the other night that a certain sum of money had been paid back to the Treasury by the National Commissioners. There must be some other view of that fact than that the Pension Fund was sufficient for its purposes. How else could the Secretary to the Treasury consent to a considerable increase in the grant for the present year?

MR. JASPER TULLY (Leitrim, S.) thought it was strange that this mistake had not been discovered sooner. Their complaint, however, had been met sympathetically by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the offer of £10,000 a year to the Pension Fund was something substantial. He agreed that the system of payment by results was simply the means of turning the children into machines for money-making for the teachers. Subjects which were of little use to the children in later life were taught in preference to more useful subjects, simply because they earned larger grants. He knew of inspectors who had discouraged the teaching of book-keeping. There was the greatest difficulty in finding any of the boys who were turned out from these schools who knew even the simplest rules of book-keeping. The children should be taught something that would be useful to them in the struggle for life.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) hoped it would not be out of place for an English Member to speak on this question. [“Hear, hear!”] The subject of finance between the various branches of the United Kingdom was an extremely difficult one, and he confessed that in reading the Parliamentary papers on the subject, he found it very difficult to arrive at any final conclusion perfectly satisfactory to himself. Therefore he urged that a question like this, which enabled the matter to be brought into a small focus, should be thoroughly threshed out, and the most complete financial justice done to Ireland in dealing with it. A large portion of the Report of the National Board of Education was occupied with purely financial considerations, instead of dealing with the broader aspects of education, and he regretted that any such question should be permitted to arise. He hoped that the question which had been raised would not be dealt with by a mere compromise. He had heard what the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said on this subject, but it seemed to him an extremely rough and ready mode of dealing with the matter that the payment should be postponed. It appeared evident that whatever had been done amiss in this matter rested with the late Government, but the British Treasury, at all events, was continuous, and if there had been any financial injustice done to Ireland, they had no right to postpone the matter or treat one branch of the United Kingdom unequally as compared with another. He had heard in Ireland very strong expressions of gratitude to the former Chief Secretary (Mr. A. J. Balfour) on the part of the teachers, who felt that he had remedied many injustices. He thought that in all branches of the United Kingdom they ought to act on the German principle, and in order to make their education great they ought to make their educators great. Unless the teachers could devote their whole minds to their work, without being hampered by anxiety as to their future, they would never be able to do justice to education, and for this reason, and not only for the teachers but also for the State, the superannuation of teachers ought to be fully and fairly provided for by legislation. With regard to the need for more commercial teaching in the schools, he was afraid it did fail to exist only in Ireland. He had no desire to minimise the importance of the higher classical education, but modern languages and the modern conditions of commercial success ought not to be neglected. He believed it was quite possible to reconcile culture and commerce, but if one was to be sacrificed it must be that one which was not absolutely essential. He thought the modern tendency not to recognise results was being somewhat overdone; results were, after all, a very important test of what was being done in education. It was undesirable to press the principle to an extreme, but they ought to test their teachers and scholars by looking to results.

*MR. P. C. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.), dealt with the history of the Pension Fund. He pointed out that after the passing of the Irish Education Act, the Government having gone out of Office did not give the Education Commissioners a chance of making any estimate. If the Commissioners wanted to increase an estimate they had to ask the permission of the Treasury. The Report just issued seemed to him to be the vindication of the Commissioners of National Education against the disgraceful reflections which had been cast upon them by the right hon. Gentleman on the Treasury Bench.

*MR. HANBURY asked the hon. Member what disgraceful reflections he referred to; what he had said was that they had failed to ask for the full amount.

*MR. DOOGAN said that he admitted that, but, because it was not within their power to ask for the full amount, that was a disingenuous statement. Any impartial person would say that no blame whatever attached to the Commissioners. He did not think that Irish Members, on behalf of the teachers, could accept the offer of the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer to pay this £10,000 to the Pension Fund in lieu of what was due to them by the Treasury. He could not understand why the Treasury themselves did not pay what was due to the Pension Fund of these overworked and underpaid Irish teachers. Another fact was that the Treasury was three months in arrear in their payments to the Irish Education Board. How was it that the Treasury were not equally in arrear in their payments to the English and Scotch Education authorities? The knowledge that the English Treasury were in arrear in their payments to the Irish Education authorities would have an exceedingly bad effect in Ireland, and would operate detrimentally upon the whole system of Irish National Education. It was the duty of the Government to see that no real injustice was done to Irish education through the negligence of the Treasury. No teachers could properly discharge their duties if what they had justly earned were not paid to them. He hoped that the Government would see their way to do justice to the Irish teachers, and that, until some definite arrangement had been arrived at, the Government would hand over the money that was due to the teachers to the Irish National Board of Education, and so remove the bitter feeling that had arisen with reference to this question. After all, no State contribution gave a better return for the outlay than that which was given towards education. Parliament voted large sums for naval and military purposes, and yet it was unwilling to grant sufficient money to enable Irish Education to be efficiently carried on. In the main, education in Ireland had been fairly successful. He contended that in reference to this matter a great financial wrong and injustice had been done to the Irish teachers, and he hoped that the Government would see their way to remedy the grievance under which that deserving body of public servants suffered. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that for many years the Government had had before them the complaint of the Irish National Board of Education that the Teachers' Pension Fund was deficient, and was in fact in a position of actuarial insolvency, and yet they had taken no steps for the purpose of placing the fund on a sound basis by making up the deficiency. He wanted to know when the Board of National Education had first reported to the Treasury that the fund was insolvent. How was it that the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had arrived at the conclusion that a sum of £10,000 a year was a fair equivalent for the £24,000 which it was admitted was due to Ireland in respect of this matter? The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Treasury had last week thrown the blame for the deficiency upon "the late Treasury." What did the right hon. Gentleman mean by the expression "the late Treasury"? He might just as well have referred to "the late British Empire." The right hon. Gentleman said that the "late Treasury," as represented, possibly, by some clerk, refused certain information.

*Mr HANBURY explained that he had said that it was the political chiefs of the Department who had failed to do their duty.

Mr T. M. HEALY had thought the right hon. Gentleman intended to make an attack upon Sir John Hibbert.

*Mr. HANBURY: No; it was an attack upon the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, who ought to be here to-day.

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked by how much the Teachers' Pension Fund was actually deficient, and why the nuns were not to have a share in the sum of £10,000 a year which was to be offered to the National Board. The nuns, he maintained, were entitled to one-eighth of it. He wished also to know whether this business was to be transacted by statute. If it was proposed that the money should appear annually upon the Estimates, they could never be sure that it would not be withheld. Would the scheme of the Government make the Pension Fund actuarially solvent? Whenever the Nationalist Members drew attention to matters of this kind they were met by the statements of one Member of the Government after another, each of whom commanded the support of a skilled permanent staff. It was hard on private Members, who had not the same means of obtaining facts and figures, that they should have to wrestle with different sets of political athletes, or, to vary the phrase, with the trained acrobats of the Treasury Bench. [*Laughter.*] He trusted that the Treasury had consulted the National Board before proposing this compensation scheme. If they had not done so, they had added insult to injury.

*MR. HANBURY, replying to the question whether the £10,000 would be made payable by statute or be merely charged on the rates, said that sufficient for the year must be the £10,000 thereof until they could obtain more accurate information as to the position of the Pension Fund than they had at present. The hon. and learned Member complained that he had no means of ascertaining the condition of the fund. Well, to a great extent the Treasury was also ignorant on the subject, because a large number of actuarial calculations were involved. A Committee had now been sitting for some time, and had gone very carefully into this question, and the Treasury had promised that when the Report was presented a full and complete statement of the condition of the fund would be laid before Parliament. Until the Report was ready they were, necessarily, somewhat in the dark.

MR. KNOX wished to know what the offer of the Government really was. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said, first, that he would give £10,000 a year; and, secondly, that he would make the fund solvent. As a matter of fact, he knew that £10,000 would not make the fund solvent.

*MR. HANBURY said that the only promise made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was the promise of £10,000.

MR. ARTHUR O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.) asked whether, under the provisions of the statute which established the Pension Fund, the Consolidated Fund was not liable to make good any deficiency in the Pension Fund?

*MR. HANBURY replied that his impression was that the statute to which the hon. Member referred did not make the Consolidated Fund liable.

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) did not think the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman a satisfactory one. The Irish Members had not yet been assured that the £125,000 due to Ireland would be repaid. All sections of Irishmen were dissatisfied with the manner in which this financial business concerning education had been conducted during the past year. There were two or three other points to which he wished to draw attention. Whilst he recognised that it would be unwise probably to abolish the system of result fees altogether, he maintained that at present the system was abused. Clever pupils were sought for throughout the country, and they were crammed and used as money-making machines for educational institutions. As regarded technical education, the Irish system was worse than that of any other civilised country in the world. For example, they had hardly any agricultural education, and yet agriculture concerned two-thirds of the Irish people. The residences of the teachers, too, in many places in the country, were certainly unfitted for the habitation of gentlemen occupying such a position. Some time since it was promised that the amount of grant for teachers' residences should be increased, but it had not been increased; and he hoped the Secretary to the Treasury would direct his attention to that practical point. The question of retiring gratuities for teachers, again, was a matter calling for urgent attention. The miserable allowance properly due from the fund had been denied—refused, by the rich Treasury of Great Britain, which owed Ireland £125,000, whilst the families of these poor creatures were allowed to fall into destitution and want by reason of red tape. And there was a greater question behind all this, because undoubtedly people pointed to this sort of thing and said—"This is the way England treats Ireland." Moreover, the Secretary to the Treasury could not give them any satisfaction as to the position of the fund. Two quinquennial revisions were due—that was to say, the great British Treasury was 13 or 14 years behind as regards the Pension Fund of the Irish National teachers. Why, if the Irish nation were 13 or 14 years behind in their taxes, what would become of her? [*Laughter.*] He hoped a more satisfactory answer would be forthcoming.

MR. KNOX was sorry after the statement of the Secretary to the Treasury, to put the Committee to the trouble of a Division, and he should therefore move the Amendment standing in his name—to reduce Item I by £50. The words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer were clear, that he was going to make this fund solvent. If that were so, he would say that the offer should be considered. Admittedly, the debt was due. But it appeared, in the first place, that the convent schools were to get nothing; and secondly, the teachers were only to get £10,000. This sum was not enough to make the fund solvent, or anything like it. He should be very much surprised if it was the case that the Treasury had no information at all of the amount of money that would be required to make this fund solvent. They had further a statement that the £10,000 was not to be secured permanently, but "sufficient for the year was the £10,000 thereof." The offer made was not at all satisfactory, and he moved the reduction of the Vote by £50 in respect of the fee grant.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.) commented on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's intimation that in future the Treasury were to consider whether the fee grant was not to be altered from its present basis, and that while in England it was to be upon the capitation grant of 10s. per child in average attendance, it was not to be so as regards Ireland and Scotland. Irish Members must at once proclaim their dissent from any such doctrine. The Irish Members dissented from the principle, whether in regard to Rating Bills or Education Bills, that the Treasury could alter financial relations according as it pleased. Hints were now being thrown out that because nine-eightieths were found to work favourably for Ireland and Scotland, they must revert to the 10s. capitation grant, and that, if the 10s. capitation grant was found to be unduly favourable to either Ireland or Scotland, those countries would be driven back to the principle of nine-eightieths. He protested against the doctrine that the Treasury should apply a different measure of treatment to those countries according as it suited their ideas of finance. The accuracy of the figures in relation to Ireland was confirmed in 1891, and nothing had since occurred to show that they were wrong. As far as the future of the fee grant was concerned, therefore, Ireland would insist that the bargain made in 1888 should be adhered to, and that the Treasury should abandon the new principle of the 10s. capitation grant. In the matter of education generally, he showed that the Commission had recommended that the average attendance of 70 in rural schools should be reduced to 60, but the Lord Lieutenant had refused to sanction the change, probably because he was afraid of the Treasury. But, in carrying out the suggested reform, a portion of the £125,000 could be usefully spent in this direction.

MR. ARTHUR O'CONNOR said he had quoted from memory the provision of the Act under which the Pension Fund was started, and its application to the repayment to the Consolidated Fund of the deficiencies arising from the fund itself. The section did refer to repayment to the Consolidated Fund, but not in the particular form indicated. The Act also dealt with another point to which he wished to call the attention of the Treasury. There ought to be laid on the Table of the House every year a statement showing the expenditure and receipts in connection with the fund for the year ended December 31 previous, and also a statement of the stock purchased and held up to date. On inquiring of the authorities in the Library whether they had such Returns, he found that the last Return was rendered in 1893, but that the Act had not been complied with either for last year or the year before. It looked, therefore, as if those responsible for the conduct of the fund, not having a satisfactory tale to tell, had not sent in the usual annual Return, and thus the House was left without the information which under the Act it was entitled to receive.

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) was glad to hear that the Treasury had admitted that the sum claimed on behalf of Ireland was justly due to her. The principle had been admitted that Ireland was to receive nine-eightieths of what had been paid to England for the fee grant up to now. Now, with regard to the way in which they were going to apply the money to Ireland, they were going to give the money back in the shape of £10,000 a year to the Pension Fund. In Ireland education was managed differently from education in England and Scotland. It was managed by a central authority. As to these equivalent grants, it was a system which would give them an unending amount of trouble before they had done with it. They had now got round to the principle for which he contended in 1891, but the extraordinary suggestion was made that it was the Scotch Office which was responsible. What had the Scotch Office to do with Ireland? ["Hear, hear!"] What they were contending for was a principle, and they should support this Amendment, for they knew that they suffered, if not to a degree equal to that of Ireland.

Question put, "That Item I (School Grants) be reduced by £50."—*(Mr. Knox.)*

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 105; Noes, 154.—(Division List, No. 347.)

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.) desired to call attention to certain matters upon this Vote. He thought it would be generally admitted that in a great many ways the education of the children of Ireland was not in such a satisfactory condition as it should be. In the first place, the school books in use were lamentably deficient for the purpose of imparting the instruction necessary for the training of the young mind, or for fitting the children for the battle of life. The very same style of book was now in use as that which was introduced 50 years ago, containing diffuse quotations from the writings of Archbishop Whateley and other examples of that character, dealing with problems that could be of no benefit to the children of the working classes. These books ought to be replaced by others which would contain lessons of a practical kind. They were living in a very progressive age, and if they were to properly equip the rising generation, in an educational sense, and give them a knowledge of the various questions which were at the present day affecting the welfare of the people as a whole, they should do so, not according to the antiquated notions of 25 or 30 years ago, but by imparting an up-to-date practical instruction to their children, as was done in Germany and other continental countries, as well as in America. One of the subjects that were neglected very much by the Education Board in Ireland was the study of the native language. It was quite true that efforts, proceeding, he supposed, from philanthropic quarters, were being made by individuals and societies throughout Ireland to keep this matter in the forefront. But this was not enough. What objection could there be to making the Irish language one of the subjects for teaching in the elementary schools? If such a thing were done there would be no difficulty in obtaining the necessary staff of teachers, and once they began to learn the children to speak the native tongue its revival would speedily take place. He read in an article a short time ago that while some years back the English language was spoken by 31,000,000 people, in 1896 150,000,000 were speaking English. He thought the English people, as a whole, had robbed Ireland of quite enough without robbing her of her language. Englishmen were proud of the spread of their own tongue, and why should Irishmen not endeavour to bring about a revival of their own native language. He urged that the study of Irish should be made a compulsory subject in elementary schools. Turning to the grievances of the National school teachers, he complained that, in consequence of the fact that the Education Board was not licensing a sufficient number of schools, the openings for a deserving class of school teachers were not such as could be desired. For instance, in the town from which he came there were three first-class assistant teachers, all of them thoroughly well qualified to take charge of a school. One of them had been waiting 14 years for a school, but in consequence of the niggardliness of the central authority there was no opening to be found for these deserving young men, and they had to work on at a beggarly £50 a year. Then there was the question of monitors, a most deserving class also; and in consequence of the fact that there was no opening for the assistant teachers, there were no adequate facilities for the appointment of monitors. As regarded the principal teachers themselves, grave discontent existed among them on the question of the capitation allowances. They said the capitation allowances were totally inadequate since the Education Board had given education free and debarred them from the right to receive remuneration from the scholars. He claimed that the teachers of Ireland compared most favourably with those of any part of the Three Kingdoms, and yet they were exceedingly ill-paid, having regard to their educational qualifications and equipment. The right hon. Gentleman, he admitted, had shown no disposition to treat them unkindly. This subject of educational progress lay at the very root of the whole social system. It was absolutely necessary, if they wished to train up an orderly and law-abiding class of citizens, they should give them a good sound education. The question of the constitution of the Education Board in Dublin was another matter which called for inquiry at the hands of the Government, because, whatever might be said as to the capabilities of the gentlemen composing it, the Board did not command the confidence and respect of the country generally. He was satisfied that the right hon. Gentleman would have, sooner or later, to settle the constitution of that Board in accordance with the predominant religious feeling of the people. The majority of the Board was composed of men who neither politically nor religiously sympathised with the people of Ireland.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I think the Board is half Protestant and half Catholic.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL said he accepted the correction of the right hon. Gentleman, and was glad to hear that such was the case. He did not think, however, that that fact was altogether so satisfactory as they could wish it to be. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to consider what he had said on this subject, in which the very greatest interest was taken in Ireland.

Mr. DILLON said he sympathised most warmly with the views expressed by the hon. Member for Cavan with regard to the Irish language, and he hoped a successful attempt would be made to revive the study of the ancient Irish tongue, which had been persecuted out of the land. It was one of the most interesting languages in Europe, and there was no reason why the people of Ireland should not be able to speak their mother tongue. He believed this subject would be brought up year after year until the language got proper recognition, both in the primary and secondary schools of the country and in the University. He now desired to allude briefly to a subject of great importance, namely, that of model schools. He understood that while it would not be in order to move any reduction on the general administration of the Vote in Ireland, they were not precluded from referring to the whole Vote by reason of the fact that a reduction had been moved on Item I.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS said that the rule was that, after a reduction had been moved upon an item the Committee could not go back to a previous item. It was open to the Committee to discuss the whole Vote, but the hon. Member would have to confine himself to dealing with the matter in purely general terms, and not discuss items.

Mr. DILLON said he was always under the impression that the rule only excluded them from raising a specific Debate as regarded some specific item, and moving a reduction in regard to it. It seemed somewhat hard that the moving of a reduction on Item I. should exclude them from discussing the general administration of the Vote.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS said it was the rule of the House which bound him as it did the hon. Member. When a question had been proposed for omitting or reducing any item, no Motion could be made or Debate allowed upon any preceding item. He might say, as an illustration, that he allowed the discussion just now upon the Celtic language on the ground that it was not referred to in any previous item. It was a matter of general interest in connection with the Estimate, but he stopped the hon. Member as soon as he came to the question of teachers' residences, because for that there was a special sum down in a special item.

Mr. DILLON said the question he desired specially to refer to was the management and administration of the Board in connection with model schools, and he fancied that, on a matter so essentially a part of the general administration of the Board, he should be in order in discussing it. He would direct his attention to the fact that it stood in exactly the same position as the general Vote for teachers and for the general administration of the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said the hon. Member would see that there was a special Vote for model schools.

MR. DILLON desired to point out that there was also a special Vote for all the teachers in all the schools, and if that ruling stood they would be absolutely precluded from saying anything on the Education Vote at all.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said that the hon. Member would remember that the Vote was under discussion some hours last week, and that it had been under discussion some hours that day, and about an hour ago a Motion was made on Item I. and a decision was taken upon that item. He was bound by the Rules of the House, and he could not allow a discussion upon a previous question.

MR. DILLON said he wanted to clearly understand the ruling. Was it the Chairman's ruling that they could not discuss any part of the administration of the Board with regard to model schools after that decision had been taken ?

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said it depended. He allowed a discussion upon the Celtic language because that was a matter of general policy. He had also allowed a discussion with regard to the composition of the National Board, because there was no item relating to that. But a matter of administration as to which there was a special item in the Vote he did not think could be discussed after a discussion upon Item I.

MR. FIELD said he should like to ask whether there was any opportunity at a subsequent stage on which a discussion could be raised, as the Chairman's ruling had been quite unexpected by hon. Members on that side of the House.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said he did not think his ruling was unexpected. He had made it many times both this Session and last Session. It had been ruled pretty steadily since 1868, when the Order was passed. He would remind the hon. Member that he had had an opportunity at the commencement of that day, and also last week, when this Vote was under discussion.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) asked if it was not possible for an hon. Gentleman to move a reduction on an item far away down, and so preclude any discussion on any of the preceding Votes.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said that would be perfectly possible and it had frequently been done, but hon. Members had risen and said they wished to discuss matters on a previous item.

MR. TULLY asked if it would be possible to raise the question of religious education as applied to these model schools.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS : As applied to model schools, no, because there is a specific item dealing with that.

MR. HENRY BROADHURST (Leicester) expressed the opinion that any money which the Chief Secretary thought it right to ask for for the purposes of Irish Education would be granted almost unanimously. He had no hesitation in saying that his constituents would support him in assisting the right hon. Gentleman to put an end to the scandals which they had heard disclosed in the speech of the hon. Member for Cavan. That hon. Member had revealed a state of things which no English or Scotch or Welsh Member would tolerate for a moment, and he trusted the Chief Secretary would make application to the House for funds on every occasion when it was necessary to supply such obvious necessities as the hon. Member for Cavan had pointed out. He entirely agreed, too, with the view that some assistance should be given for the cultivation and development of the Celtic language. It might be said that this was a mere matter of sentiment, and that therefore it was frivolous and useless to spend public money upon it. Even if it was a matter of sentiment, was not patriotism made up of sentiment, and he did not see why they should not encourage patriotism in the case of Ireland just as they encouraged it in the case of Scotland and Wales. There was not a Scotchman worthy of the name who did not glory in being a Scotchman; he showed it on any and every occasion —["Hear, hear!" *and laughter*]—and Englishmen joined in his glorification. Why should they not try and cultivate the same feeling in Ireland? Speaking for himself, he knew nothing whatever of the Gaelic language, but he had heard it spoken; he had heard it used for public purposes, and for purposes of religious instruction, and in appeals to the patriotism of the people, and he could not help feeling proud of belonging to a country which had so many component parts as that language represented. He was entirely in favour of the appeal which had been made by the Irish Members to the Chief Secretary. With regard to the request for more money for education in Ireland, he believed the English people would heartily support the Chief Secretary in making a more liberal provision for that purpose.

MR. MACNEILL said he would appeal to the Chief Secretary to encourage the Celtic language in Ireland. In his own constituency there was a large population who only spoke Irish, and who could neither read nor write English, not because they were wanting in intelligence, but because sufficient educational facilities had not been offered them. Donegal was once a great centre of learning—a fact which was evidenced by the existence in that part of Ireland of many literary treasures in the Irish tongue; and a cultivation of that language would open those treasures to the people. Though illiterate, the Donegal peasant was a man of much natural intelligence, and the better the education he received the more valuable would he become, not only to Ireland, but to the whole Empire. The teaching of Irish need not detract from the study of English. Both tongues could be taught together, and the Chief Secretary would do a good work educationally, and in the development of character, if he brought into the Irish system of education a complete and thorough means of teaching Irish grammatically and structurally, and in thus opening the treasures which that language concealed.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) said that the best way for satisfactorily settling this and other questions affecting Ireland would be to place them in the hands of the Irish people themselves —to give them a Parliament of their own in which they might discuss and give effect to them in their own way. ["Hear, hear!"] He would not trespass on the time of the Committee by dwelling on the general question of the educational policy in Ireland further than to say that he thought his hon. Friend was well advised, and did a useful work in raising the question which was before the Committee. Occasional glances at the Reports of the English and Scotch Education Departments convinced him that the educational methods in England and Scotland were steadily improving. He wished he could think that improvement was proceeding at the same rate in Ireland. In his opinion the steady improvement in educational methods in these islands was largely due to the criticism which educational methods received year after year from English members in this House, and that when those Members rose they were not received with a deprecating start from the English Minister of Education, who was the director of the English educational policy. One of the glaring defects of the British system in Ireland was that one gentleman had to answer for all departments of Irish life, a fact which taxed the energies of the most robust men. In the matter of singing it was notorious that within the past 20 years, public school singing in England had been improved to an extent which no other country in the world could boast of. That was not so in Ireland. In England a great improvement had been effected through the development of the tonic sol fa system. In Ireland that system was almost unknown. Take the teaching of spelling. He held that a child could easily, by a proper system of teaching spelling, be taught to read in such a way that at five years old he or she could read the newspapers. If they took up the reports of the English School Inspectors they found that the teaching of spelling, and, through it, the teaching of reading was receiving constant study and attention. In Ireland that was not so. The whole system of elementary education in England was enormously in advance of anything that existed in Ireland. Whereas there had been an immense advance during the last 20 years in educational methods in England, in Ireland to-day the system of education was what it was 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago. It was perhaps unfair to expect the right hon. Gentleman to devote his attention to this important matter in the way an English Minister did, but he asserted that if they had in Ireland an Education Department which would do for Ireland which the English Education Department was doing for England, the system of elementary education in Ireland would be enormously and vastly improved. As to the teaching of Gaelic in Irish schools he entirely shared the view that it would be preposterous for any one to hope or desire to expel or exterminate the English language in Ireland. For good or evil the English language must always be the most important or predominant language in Ireland, but all he and his Friends asked was that the Government should do for the Irish language in Ireland what they willingly and cheerfully did for the Gaelic in Scotland and for the Welsh language in Wales. There was a large juvenile population in Ireland who were still solely Irish speakers. That population had to go to school, and the question was, how they were to be treated when they were got there. The Irish Education Department treated them as if they were English children. English books were put into their hands, and they were taught to spell o-x, ox, and d-o, do, and were put through all the rest of the elementary course of learning to read as if they were already acquainted with the English language. For all practical purposes the books put into their hands might as well be written in Greek or in Sanscrit. An intelligent way to deal with this problem, and the way which was strongly recommended by the late Sir Patrick Keenan, was to deal with the children as Irish children; to teach them first of all to read in Irish, and then, through Irish, to teach them to read in English. The one effect of the present method of dealing with the children was that when at 12, 13 or 14 they left school, they were, for all practical purposes, as ignorant of English as they were the day they entered it. From an educational point of view alone, it was of the utmost importance that the Irish Educational Department should treat Irish children as the children in the Highlands of Scotland and as the Welsh children in Wales were treated. No one desired that the children should not be taught English; on the contrary, he advocated the teaching of them in the way he desired because he believed they would learn English better. Of course, the direct result of the adoption of what he advocated would be that they would teach the children English better and do something to keep the ancient language of Ireland alive. He was pained to see the attitude assumed by the hon. Member for South Belfast, who represented what might be called the Philistine view—the view that all knowledge was to be estimated and computed by its value in pounds, shillings and pence. That was a short-sighted view of the subject, and one which no one of the intellectual eminence of the Chief Secretary would take. That was not only a Philistine view, but it was a view that had done much harm to English interests in Ireland. The view advocated by the hon. Member for South Belfast was the same that was put forward three centuries ago by the poet Spenser in his survey of the state of Ireland, when he advocated the total suppression of the Irish language, on the ground that "where the speech is Irish, there the heart must be Irish too." But if English Statesmen wished to see the day when their work in Ireland should be respected and loved, they must not strive to suppress and exterminate Irish nationality, but must foster and encourage it. The hon. Member for South Belfast, in what he had said that evening, did not really express the views of his own class in Ireland, for the bulk of the work done in recent years in furtherance of the Irish language and literature had been done by the descendants of Protestant settlers. The most intellectual and successful workers in the field of the Irish language and archæology had been men of Protestant descent. The Irish language was being studied now in Germany, and France, and Italy, and the work done in Germany alone in the last 30 or 40 years for the Irish language far surpassed anything done in these

*Mr. Maurice Healy.*

islands in the same period. The interest that the Irish language excited among scholars and philologists was constantly increasing.

Mr. W. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara) said that in order that the English language might be taught successfully in Ireland, it was absolutely necessary that there should be a sufficient number of teachers who knew the Irish language. At present on the western seaboard there was a great dearth of Irish speaking teachers. That was much to be regretted, as many children through want of proper teaching grew up in ignorance of English, and that was very disadvantageous to them when they had to go to other countries, as many of them unfortunately had to.

*Mr. DOOGAN contended that the number of Irish speaking teachers ought to be increased. The backward state of education in Ireland as compared with England was, he believed, largely due to the system of payment by results. It encouraged the practice of crude and cruel cram, and only developed one faculty of the mind, namely, the memory. Under this system teachers were prone to devote themselves chiefly to the education of the bright children, and to leave those who were slow to take care of themselves. The whole system was based upon an erroneous assumption. It assumed that children of the same age and class had the same mental capacity. But they would not get three children equally gifted in the same class. He thought that many of the subjects should be eliminated from the school programme, and that the children should be trained with a view to develop all their faculties and with due regard to morals and discipline. The mere dry bones of a system of payment by results operated injuriously to the efficiency of the national education. Not one penny of public money was paid on the results of individual examination of pupils in England and Scotland. Why then should the system continue year after year in Ireland? It made the lives of the teachers miserable and tended to give the children a hatred of education and of school life. He pressed the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland once for all to have this pernicious system abolished or greatly modified.

On the return of the Chairman of Ways and Means, after the usual interval,

Mr. FIELD said he wished to voice the feelings of the many societies in Dublin which advocated the encouragement of the teaching of the Irish language in the national schools in Ireland. He asked that the result fees with respect to the teaching of Irish should be raised to the same standard as those given for proficiency in foreign languages which were not of commercial value. The system of national education in Ire- was wrong from the beginning. The National Board of Education was composed almost entirely of eminent educationists, professional men, and divines, and did not include any practical commercial man who knew the wants of the Irish nation from a commercial and practical point of view. The result was the children were taught to be memory machines, and did not receive the technical education which was now so necessary. The result was, an article was being produced for which there was no demand. There was no country in Europe so deficient in technical education at the present time as Ireland. Industrial or commercial training was almost unknown in the national system of education of Ireland, and yet that system was frequently praised as an almost perfect institution. This was a matter that vitally concerned the material prosperity of Ireland, and unless there was some amount of material prosperity in the country the people could not be contented and happy. Besides, an ignorant people were more difficult to rule than an educated people, because education enabled a man to take a broadminded view of things and to look beyond the narrow and sectional interests which perhaps influenced those about him. In countries abroad, children were given a commercial or a technical education; they were fully equipped with the armour of experience and knowledge to enable them to fight successfully in the battle of life. But in Ireland the girls were not taught to sew or cook; the boys were not given an agricultural or manual training; they merely learned pages of books by rote, with the result that they were utterly unfitted for positions in life for which they were destined. These might seem novel assertions coming from the Irish Benches. But, unfortunately, they were absolutely true. Until the system of national education in Ireland was made more practical it must be a complete failure in the future, as it had been, to some extent, in the past. The whole system required to be reconstructed, in order to fit Irish boys and girls for the struggle with the youth of other countries.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the greater part of the discussion on the Vote had centred round two questions—the constitution of the Board of National Education, and the teaching of the Irish tongue in the Elementary Schools of Ireland. It was complained that the Education Board was not sufficiently representative, and one hon. Member had suggested that, in order to cure the evils of the system, an autocrat in the person of the Chief Secretary should step in. The Chief Secretary might be an autocrat in many departments of Irish public life, but so far as education was concerned the Commissioners were supreme, subject, of course, to the rules under which they worked, and all the Chief Secretary could do was to bring those suggestions before the Board. He could not force them on the Board, even if he agreed with them. He was sure he need not be suspected of throwing cold water on the study of the Irish language, which was once—though it could hardly be said to be so any longer—the national tongue of Ireland. He had not attempted the study of that language in Ireland, but he did once make a serious attempt to master it as it was spoken in Scotland. He could not, however, say that that attempt had been very successful, for after a few weeks or months of study he had to give it up as a bad job. [*Laughter.*] He knew something of Greek and Latin, but compared with Gaelic the study of Greek or Latin was a trifle. [*Laughter.*] Undoubtedly the language had a very valuable and interesting literature—more so in Ireland than in Scotland—but it appeared to him that in those days its study was more the concern of scholars and philologists than of practical men. ["Hear, hear!"] So far as elementary education was concerned, the question that had to be dealt with was, what would best equip for their future business in life those who passed through the Elementary Schools. ["Hear, hear!"] He thought he noticed two different trends of thought in the discussion. Some hon. Members contended that the study of Irish should be encouraged in order that it might become once more something like the national tongue of Ireland. They would like to see Erse restored as a national language, but any expectation of that kind was absolutely chimerical; and, if it were not, he doubted whether its fulfilment would be an advantage to the Irish people. One hon. Member wished the study of Irish to be encouraged in the elementary schools in order to increase the spread of "our tongue"—meaning by that a tongue which the hon. Member did not himself speak—[*laughter*]—and another hon. Member wished to see the study of Erse encouraged from sentiments of patriotism. No doubt there was a strong feeling of the kind in Wales, but he did not think there was a desire in Scotland to perpetuate the knowledge and practice of the Gaelic speech. It was not desirable artificially to stimulate the study of the Irish language, but if there was a natural inclination to study it he should not stand in the way. If the education in the elementary schools was to fit the children for their place in life, the study of Irish could not be particularly encouraged. But there were some districts in Ireland where the Irish tongue was still the national language of the people, and there probably the best way of teaching the children would be first to teach them to use their own language properly. As to the salaries of teachers in Ireland, they were undoubtedly smaller than those of teachers in England, but the circumstances and systems of the two countries were different. One third of the salaries of English and Scotch teachers was derived from local sources; in Ireland the whole burden was borne by the State. Then, again, many of the Irish schools were very small. The proportion of children to teachers was double in England to that in Ireland. As to the importance of making the elementary education in Ireland more practical and useful, and less of mere book-learning, he entirely sympathised with that object. He had no power to impose his views on the Commissioners, but understood that they themselves were moving in this direction, and in a short time he hoped to see a real development in the direction so much to be desired. [" Hear, hear ! "]

MR. FIELD asked whether some commercial men could not be introduced on the National Board ?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that there were already two commercial members on the Board.

Original Question put and agreed to.

2. £605 to complete the sum for Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland —Agreed to.

3. £1,643 to complete the sum for National Gallery of Ireland,—

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.) called attention to the small sum allowed (£1,000) for the purchase of pictures for the National Gallery of Ireland. This was very unfair when it was remembered that the National Gallery in England got anything they asked for from the Treasury. It was not often possible to buy a good picture for £1,000.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he would be very glad to see a larger sum voted for the purchase of pictures, but the hon. Member knew the hardness of the Treasury's heart. The hon. Member said that the Trustees of the English National Gallery had only to come to the Treasury to get all they wanted ; but he did not think that would be the account given by the Trustees themselves. For the present year the grant in aid to the National Gallery in London amounted to only £5,000, and, on the principle of the equivalent grant, he did not think it would be fair to claim more than £1,000 for the gallery in Dublin. He entirely sympathised with what the hon. Member said with regard to the difficulty of buying good pictures with so small a sum, and he certainly thought it would be reasonable, if more could be granted, that the authorities should be allowed to accumulate the money, so that when occasion offered it might be possible to buy a really valuable picture.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE pointed out that not many years ago the National Gallery in London got as much as £75,000. He would suggest that, when an occasion offered of securing some good pictures, the Treasury might consider the possibility of making a special grant for the purpose.

Vote agreed to.

4. £2,450 to complete the sum for Queen's Colleges, Ireland,—

MR. DILLON said this Vote raised one of the most important and burning questions in Irish affairs. They were told by Unionists that they had only to bring a really substantial grievance to the notice of the House of Commons to have it remedied. Here was a grievance of a quarter of a century's standing. It had been defeated over and over again, and it had been admitted as a crying grievance by both Parties. The present Government were in a peculiarly strong position for dealing with the question of university education in Ireland. The Irish Catholics were assured that, if a Unionist Government were returned to power, this question would be finally settled. There were four great teaching universities in Ireland, three endowed by the State and one by ancient endowments. Dublin University had an immense income from ancient endowments, and while it was true it was nominally an unsectarian institution, it was, in reality, a Protestant college. Nearly 50 years ago the system of Queen's colleges was set up for the specific purpose of meeting the grievances of the Irish Catholics. These colleges were established in Belfast, Cork, and Galway. The college in Belfast had passed entirely into the hands of the Presbyterians, and they had made it a great institution. The colleges in Cork and Galway were established to meet the wants of the Catholics in those great Catholic centres, but, from the day they were established to the present hour, the Government had persisted in running them on a system which made them unsuitable to the wants of the Catholics. If the wishes of the Catholics had been consulted, these colleges would have brought untold advantages to the people of Connaught and Munster. Cork College had done somewhat better than Galway, but they had both failed in the purpose for which they were intended. He did not know any subject in which this Government might be more reasonably expected to legislate than this. When he brought the question before the House on a former occasion, the Chief Secretary said it was a matter in connection with which the Catholics had suffered a great grievance, and one which demanded legislation. He was perfectly well aware that the previous Conservative Government passed a Bill to set up the Royal University in Ireland to meet the wants of the Catholics. The Royal University had done a certain amount of good work, but it did not supply the primary want for the higher education of the people, and that was a great teaching institution. Catholics who could not go to the Queen's Colleges were denied a University education. That was a cruel disability for them to labour under, and a Government like the present, who had the power to remedy the grievance, ought to take the very earliest opportunity of applying themselves to it. The college of Belfast had been recognised as a Presbyterian body, and the whole administration of the college was based on the principle that it had to cater for Presbyterian students; but Galway was run in such a way as to make it difficult for Catholics to enter the college. The Government should make a frank declaration that they intended to tackle this great problem of university education on the principle of treating all religious denominations equally. Irishmen had never been able to accept the Queen's College system as an adequate substitute for a university system. They were entitled to demand that there should be in Dublin, side by side with Trinity College, a teaching institution, equal in prestige and in position, which should be acceptable and open to the Catholic youth of Ireland. Nothing less than this would satisfy the Irish Catholics.

*Mr. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) demurred to the statement that Belfast College was exclusively a Presbyterian College.

Mr. DILLON: I said it was practically, not exclusively, a Presbyterian College.

*Mr. JOHNSTON showed that a large number of the students were connected with the Church of Ireland, and they

were proud of the large number of Presbyterian students who took advantage every year of the education given in Queen's College. He should like to say a few words as to the endowment of a Roman Catholic University. He was strongly opposed to anything of the kind. They regretted if the Roman Catholics did not take advantage of the existing system side by side with Protestant students. He ventured to urge that they should have such educational institutions that they could all meet on a common platform.

Mr. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour) said it was quite true, as they were told, that they had Dublin University, and that it, like Belfast Queen's College was open to Catholics, but it reminded him of what Cromwell said: "What do they want with churches, ours are open?" What was the use of talking about Trinity College being open, and the Queen's College open, so long as the system under which they were conducted precluded Catholics from attending them?

*Mr. JOHNSTON: The hon. Member for Waterford is a Trinity College man.

Mr. HARRINGTON: Yes, and I was at Trinity College myself, but that is not an answer. They desired for their country a system of education which would not preclude the great majority of the people from partaking of it. Everybody knew that it was impossible for Catholics to have a university education under the present system. They could not enter the colleges or avail themselves of them. It was the duty of the Government to address themselves to that difficulty. It was their duty to see that by some means the Catholics of Ireland were placed on the same terms of equality with the Protestants in the matter of education. They had now the Protestants governing Trinity College and the Queen's College, and under these circumstances it was absurd to say that they were placed on an equality with the Protestants.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said he could only deal with the matter generally. He regretted that the Roman Catholic hierarchy did not approve of the University, so that contemporaries might be brought up side by side. However, as the hon. Member had said, they must take facts as they found them, and the Catholics had shown their absolute sincerity by refusing to allow their children to attend the colleges. No one who knew Ireland could deny the difficulty of the problem. He himself, in the short time he had been in Ireland, had to recognise it. It was his unfortunate lot to have to dispense a great deal of patronage. It had been his desire that that patronage should be shared to an equal extent between Protestants and Catholics, but he was certain that everyone in his position had felt the difficulty of finding Catholics who were fit to hold these positions, and the difficulty was largely due to the absence of a Catholic University education. That was a proposition which no one could deny. Most of the endeavours to solve the question had, he was afraid, been failures, which had brought more or less discredit on those who had attempted its solution. He did not know if he was to try and solve it that he should be more fortunate than those who had preceded him. He was not in a position to pledge the Government in this matter; but he repeated that, so far as he personally was concerned, he should be glad to try and make a solution of the problem, and it would be a great pride to him if, before he ceased to hold the office he now held, he could feel that even some step had been taken towards the solution of a problem which, he was certain, was intimately bound up with the future prosperity of Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. MACNEILL had heard with pride the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, but remarked that at the same time there must be some limit to the patience of the Irish people. The Chief Secretary spoke of a future Catholic University as a thing to be hoped for—as a pious inspiration. But in August, 1889, the present First Lord of the Treasury promised the Irish Members, in language which would admit of no equivocation, that a Catholic University should be a primary matter with the Conservative Government. At the time he made that promise it was near the end of the then Parliament. But the Chief Secretary was now at the beginning of an Administration, and had great facilities and power. A Catholic University could easily be founded, and if founded on the same revenue as Trinity College he had no doubt of its success. The only Protestant institution that had been prosperous in Ireland had been Dublin University. The revenues of that great University were less than the revenues of two or three of the ordinary colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, and when such a success could be achieved with a University founded wholly in favour of the minority, what could be done with a University founded in favour of the majority? The hon. Member for East Mayo had stated the absolute demand of his co-religionists that there should be a teaching college in Dublin equal in power and emoluments to Trinity College in Dublin. So far as the mechanism was concerned, it was quite ready to the hon. Gentleman's hands. All he had got to do was to add a second College to Dublin University, to which the Catholics could go with sympathy, and find a Catholic atmosphere, with nothing at all in the studies derogatory in tone and sentiment to their religion. Let them have a college in which Catholic priests were Professors just as Protestant clergymen were in Trinity College. No body of men had a higher claim to teach the Catholics than had the Catholic priests. They had simply a genius for teaching. Referring to the Colleges of Galway and Cork, he said they had every appliance ready to their hand; a magnificent staff of professors and beautiful class rooms and buildings, but these colleges were not administered sympathetically in regard to the mass of the surrounding population, who were Catholics. The right hon. Gentleman, without the necessity of passing any Act, could easily manage to convert these colleges into denominational colleges in the same sense in which Trinity College was denominational, and if that were done the success of Queen's College, Galway, all through Connaught, and of Queen's College, Cork, all through Munster, would be as great as was the success of the Belfast College throughout the Presbyterian and Protestant element in Ireland. Was the right hon. Gentleman aware that the President of the Belfast College was a Presbyterian? [MR. W. JOHNSTON: "We are all proud of him."] He should be glad, in the same way, to see the President of Galway or Cork College a Catholic priest. He admitted that theoretically

Trinity College was practically open to everyone, but it had, in reality, always been an exceedingly Protestant institution. He would ask the Government to form this subject of University education into some practical scheme, and not to rest content with the expression of a mere pious opinion.

Mr. WOLFF did not think even hon. Gentlemen opposite would accuse him of having any very narrow sectarian views. If he could get all the young men in Ireland educated in Protestant colleges he would do so, but failing that he would prefer to have them educated as good Catholics. He denied that the Queen's College in Belfast was entirely a Presbyterian college. There was nothing on earth to prevent Catholics going there. If the Presbyterian doctrine was taught there, or if the atmosphere generally were Presbyterian and would in any way interfere with Catholics, he would say that hon. Gentlemen opposite were right; but the grievance that hon. Gentlemen raised was that no religion whatever was taught there. He thought education in Ireland ought to be strictly non-sectarian. He could not help thinking that it said very little for the opinion hon. Gentlemen had of their own faith, if they were afraid of their young men going for a few hours a day to a college in which their religion was not taught. The Queen's College in Belfast had been a very successful college, but the colleges in Cork and Galway had failed, not through any fault of their teaching staff or professors, but simply because the Roman Catholic clergy would not allow their young men to go to any college whatever of which they had not the entire control in their own hands. ["No, no!"] Then why did they not go?

Mr. MACNEILL: Because they didn't choose to.

Mr. DILLON: I want to know if the Queen's College at Belfast had none but Catholic professors, how many Presbyterians would go there?

Mr. WOLFF said that was a question which he could not answer, but he did not think the question of the religion of the professors should be taken into account. If the University education did not succeed, the fault did not lie with the Government; it lay entirely with the Catholics, who would have nothing to do with any college of which they had not the entire control.

Mr. FLYNN asked whether the hon. Gentleman had ever heard of the Mansfield College in Oxford?

Mr. WOLFF: Was that college founded by the Government?

Mr. FLYNN contended that did not affect the question. He agreed that the speech of the right hon. Gentleman was conciliatory, and one might have thought it sympathetic if some of them on those Benches had not remembered that they heard exactly the same speech seven years ago uttered by his distinguished brother when he was Chief Secretary. The First Lord of the Treasury then said:—

> "I do not deny that I regret that the Roman Catholic clergy have felt it their duty to discourage members of their religion from taking full advantage of the Queen's College in Galway, or of Trinity College, Dublin, which is now open to every denomination. But in this matter regrets are vain things, and we have to take facts as we find them. I am afraid it is perfectly clear that nothing which has hitherto been done will really meet the wants and wishes of the Roman Catholic population in Ireland. That being so, we have no alternative but to try to devise some scheme by which the wants of the Catholic population shall be met other than that which at present has been attempted. I do not think that this would be the proper time for me to suggest even in outline the main lines of what the scheme ought to be, but we ought to make some attempt, if possible, to carry out a scheme of the kind I have indicated."

He was afraid they had not advanced very far on that road since that time. They often heard of a certain place being paved with good intentions. The floor of that House was littered with the promises and good intentions of Conservative Governments towards Ireland, and he supposed they were as far away from a Catholic University in Ireland, so far as the Government were concerned, as they were seven years ago. The hon. Member opposite asked if they would be able to find the funds, but he would remind the hon. Gentleman that if they took into their hands the whole system of Irish education, primary, secondary, and higher, and if they gave them no voice in its management and administration, then they could not turn round and ask them to find the money to carry out a scheme which they were bound to carry out. If they believed that University education was a good thing, then the Government were bound to turn an attentive ear to the advice of those who were competent to give advice from their knowledge of the feelings and wants of Ireland. They were all heartily glad to hear of the great success of Queen's College, Belfast. They thoroughly shared the pride of hon. Members opposite in that fact. The Queen's College in Cork, with which he was acquainted, had not been a failure, far from it, but it had developed into a huge medical school. There was a little art, and there was a little bit of engineering, but for all practical purposes that beautiful edifice, kept up at an enormous expense, was practically nothing but a huge medical school, and as a University it was a ghastly failure. If at Oxford, an institution of so many years standing, it was possible to have a comparatively modernised system like Unitarianism or Free Church, it ought not to be difficult for the Government of the day, if they were sympathetic or studied the wants and feelings of the people of Ireland, to deal with a question of this kind.

*MR. THOMPSON SHARPE (Kensington, N.) desired to associate himself with the appeals which had been made from the Benches opposite on behalf of their Roman Catholic friends in Ireland with reference to University education. He did so with the more freedom as an Irish Churchman representing a Metropolitan constituency. The University of Dublin, where he was educated, was the one institution of Ireland of which all Irishmen, without distinction of race, creed, or class, were proud. Holding such a unique position in that country, and governed by men of the highest intellectual calibre, it had been for generations open to all religious denominations. When he was an undergraduate in Trinity College, Roman Catholics and Dissenters were admitted to degrees. Since then the foundation had been thrown open to all, and many Roman Catholics had been elected to scholarships, fellowships, and professorships. There was not, he believed, a Roman Catholic Judge on the Bench who had not taken his degree at Trinity, Dublin. Then there was the other University—Queen's, now called the Royal University — founded by Sir Robert Peel, on the non-sectarian or undenominational basis, which was so popular 50 years ago. The colleges of Belfast, Cork and Galway had each had a sphere of great usefulness. But the fact remained as the Chief Secretary had admitted, the fact faced them at every turn—that the Irish Roman Catholics had not taken advantage of the existing Universities. This might be in part owing to social reasons, the Roman Catholics not being as able to bear the expense of giving their sons a college education as Churchmen and Presbyterians. But there was this admitted grievance—call it sentimental if they would—that the Roman Catholics did not approve, and would not largely avail themselves of, undenominational education. This great country could afford to be generous. The great Party now in power—this strong Government —could, if they set themselves to work, settle this question during their term of office, and give the Irish people a share of University education on lines which they could approve—[*cheers*]—and he should rejoice to see the Government take some steps to satisfy the legitimate wishes of their Catholic brethren, and give them such share in University education as would be satisfactory to them. [*Loud cheers.*]

MR. DILLON said that, on behalf of the Roman Catholics of Ireland he thanked the hon. Member for the speech he had just made. [*Cheers.*] He had listened to the speech of the Chief Secretary that night with feelings of the greatest disappointment. They had retrograded in this matter. The tone of the Chief Secretary and First Lord of the Treasury on the occasion when this Vote was last before the House was much more hopeful than the speech they had heard that night. ["Hear, hear!"] What did the Chief Secretary say? He practically admitted the grievance, that an immense evil existed, and he said that his short residence in Ireland had brought keenly home to him the disabilities under which Irish Catholics laboured. The right hon. Gentleman added that he would feel it to be a great source of pride if, during his tenure of office, he could solve the problem, but that he despaired of doing so. That was the impression conveyed by his speech to Irish Members. He gave them no intimation that the Government had it seriously in their minds to face the problem. He did not know whether the Chief Secretary recollected the interesting and remarkable Debate that took place on the question of denominational education some years ago, when the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Trinity College rose from the Treasury Bench, and, to the great surprise of the House, declared that he himself had always been in favour of granting full satisfaction to the wishes of the Irish Catholics in this regard, and that he would support any reasonable or just Measure for giving them University education. On that occasion it was made manifest that, if the governor of Ireland—whether he was a Liberal or a Conservative—would deal with the question, and would meet the representatives of the Irish people, the matter could be settled without difficulty.

*Mr. JOHNSTON: It would break up the Conservative Party.

Mr. DILLON said that might be, but, if the hon. Member for South Belfast led the Opposition, how many did he think he would get out of the 102 Irish Members to support him? He did not think the hon. Member would get half-a-dozen Members of the Irish Conservative Party to oppose any reasonable settlement of the question. The difficulty of settling the question arose from the same root from which had sprung all the difficulties with regard to Ireland, namely, that the Irish Government could not deal with Ireland in accordance with Irish sentiment, but must deal with it according to English prejudice. If the Chief Secretary could deal with the matter without fear of breaking up his Party—if he had a free hand in the matter, and could confer with Irish Catholics—he would be able to bring about a satisfactory settlement in a very short time. He would go as far as to say that he was perfectly confident that if the Chief Secretary could meet the representatives of the Irish Catholics in a room—if the right hon. Gentleman had plenipotentiary powers from the English people to deal with Irish notions and his own sense of justice—the whole difficulty could be settled in a few months. He repeated that the Chief Secretary admitted that the matter involved a great grievance; he had realised the fact that it was a grievance which had blasted the lives of generations of Irish Catholics and young men growing up in Ireland, because they were debarred by conscientious scruples from entering the Protestant Universities of the country, and he would like to extend, and would be willing to extend, to them the privileges of University education in accordance with their religious convictions. The hon. Member for South Belfast invited the Irish Catholics to enter the Queen's College of Belfast, and other colleges, and he said that those colleges were as open to Catholics as they were to Protestants of the Church of Ireland. If they had all turned Protestants they could have all gone on the Church establishment before the Church was Disestablished, but in these matters the ultimate judge must be the conscience of the people—["Hear, hear!"]—and if for years and generations the Irish people had proved by their action and by their sacrifices that they had been labouring under the coercion of their conscientious convictions, no one had any right now to deny them their just demands in regard to religious education. The Irish people could not enjoy the privileges of University education as those privileges were now offered to them, with a quiet conscience, because Catholic parents believed that if they sent their children there they would place their faith in peril. They might be right or wrong in that, but one thing was certain—that you could not wean them from their conscientious convictions by placing them under disabilities. If Protestants thought them wrong, the only way to induce them to change their convictions was to let them have their way, and trust to the spread of education. ["Hear, hear!"] But to this end coercion was powerless. As to the remarks of the hon. Member for South Belfast, he would merely say that he believed that if the Queen's College of Belfast was stuffed by a set of Catholic professors the only result would be that the Presbyterian young men of the country would boycott the college. Would the hon. Member for South Belfast send any young man under his control to a college the professors of which were Roman Catholics? He would do nothing of the sort. What right, then, had he to suggest that the Catholics of Ireland should do what he would not do himself? It was idle to ask Catholics to go into the present colleges; they were Protestant colleges, there was a Protestant atmosphere there, and Catholics did not get fair play. Catholics did not, as the hon. Member asserted, demand colleges which should be under the control of the Catholic clergy, but they wanted colleges Catholic in the sense that the professors and managers should be Catholic, and that the whole atmosphere of the establishment should be in sympathy with the Catholic and Nationalist sentiment of the country.

*MR. HORACE PLUNKETT (Dublin Co., S.) said the difficulty which confronted them was that on the opposite Benches there was a Catholic atmosphere and on the Government side there was a Protestant atmosphere, and if they sat up until 10 o'clock tomorrow hon. Gentlemen opposite would never get Gentlemen on the Government side to understand the Catholic atmosphere. [MR. DILLON: "We did get one man;" *and* MR. MACNEILL: "We shall never get you."] They had got him. He had lived among Catholics all his life and part of his family were Catholics, and therefore he thought he might claim to understand the Catholic position. He was as anxious as anyone could be that the question of the establishment of a Catholic University should be settled in a way that would satisfy the Catholics of Ireland, and he understood that the Leader of the House abided completely by his previous declarations on the subject—[THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: "Hear, hear!"]—but he was not certain that the Catholics of Ireland were agreed as to the scheme which would be, in their view, a satisfactory solution of the question. It was a matter of common notoriety that no scheme so far had met with general acceptance in Ireland, and any Chief Secretary who should attempt to solve the question would have an extremely difficult task in deciding between the various views held by hon. Members representing Nationalist constituencies and by the Catholic clergy and laity. It was even within the bounds of possibility that a scheme might be adopted by the Chief Secretary and might receive a large amount of support in Ireland, and yet that in the end a Catholic University might be established to which Catholic students would refuse to go. He sympathised with hon. Members opposite in this matter, but did not think that any good would be done by prolonging a desultory discussion on the subject.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY appealed to the Committee to agree to the Vote. They had now had an interesting and, he thought, adequate discussion on this Vote, and he was sure hon. Members had no wish to sit up again until a very late hour. ["Hear, hear!"]

Vote agreed to.

### CLASS I.

5. £137,341, to complete the sum for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland,—

MR. TULLY drew attention to the drainage works at Drumheriff on the Shannon, and conplained that the overseers only gave employment to workmen who were recommended by gentlemen belonging to one local political Party. He did not think that that ought to be done in the case of works carried on under the supervision of the Board of Works. Workmen ought to be eligible for employment, where there was competition, as in this case, if they were recommended by clergymen of any denomination or by the local Magistrates. He hoped that in future the Chief Secretary would take care that no petty local political considerations were permitted to prevent men either of one Party or the other from getting employment.

*Mr. **HANBURY** said that the point raised by the hon. Member was new to him. He quite agreed that political considerations ought not to influence the question of employment of men and he undertook to make inquiries.

Mr. **DILLON** said that he should raise the whole question of model schools on the Report stage. He wished to know why the item £2,500 which appeared under this Vote for the Queen's College, Belfast, was so much larger than the item £385, for Galway College. He did not however, begrudge Belfast College any expenditure in buildings that were required to render the college more efficient; but if the Nationalist Members did not object to this item he hoped that the hon. Members for Belfast would imitate their liberality and not object to expenditure on the other colleges.

*Mr. **HANBURY** said the sum might appear at first sight to be large, but this was the last instalment of a sum promised by the late Government, part of which was voted last year, to complete the sum for the endowment of a charity school.

Sir **JAMES HASLETT** (Belfast, N.) said there were a number of Catholic professors in the college, and that a Presbyterian president did not make a Presbyterian college. He thought it would be only fair that there should be a similar treatment in regard to colleges in other cities.

Mr. **DILLON** protested against a comparison being drawn between a city like Belfast and cities like Galway or even Cork. The people of Belfast were better able to subscribe to the college than the people of Galway and Cork. Moreover, the people of Belfast were in entire sympathy with their college and were proud of it, which was not the case with the other cities.

Vote agreed to.

£19,503, to complete the sum for railways, Ireland,——

Mr. **TULLY** was understood to refer to the case of the Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway Company. An Act was passed last year by which the Treasury contribution of 2 per cent. could be capitalised so as to extinguish a certain proportion of the share capital of the company, thus making the contribution which the cess payers were liable to considerably lighter. Previously to that Act being passed the shares of the company were run up by stock speculators from £5 to £7 17s. 6d. The Government had held as a lien on this line a block of shares which were worth £65,000, and by selling these the Treasury had, he believed, made a profit of something like £13,000. That sum had been applied to reducing the share capital of the company, which was a considerable advantage to the people in Leitrim. The right hon. Gentleman had in answer to a question the other day told him the particulars of this transaction. It appeared to be a very extraordinary thing that the Government should have sold a large portion of these shares at a lower price than they obtained for others shortly afterwards. The difference in the price so realised would have amounted to a very large sum. He did not know all the details of these transactions at the time they took place, or else he should have called attention to them before.

*Mr. **HANBURY** said that the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down admitted that the Government had made a very good bargain in reference to this matter, and his only cause of complaint appeared to be that the bargain was not a better one. The Government had taken these shares as security, and when they rose in value they had sold a portion of them at a considerable profit, the amount of which they handed over to the locality. The hon. Gentleman appeared to think that if the Government had held over for some time longer they would have made a much larger profit. It was, of course, easy to be wise after the event, but the Government in his opinion were amply justified in realising the value of the shares when they could secure a handsome profit. As regarded the precise dates at which the different transactions had taken place, he was sorry that he had not the figures before him at that moment; but he would make inquiries into the matter, and would give the hon. Gentleman such information with regard to them as he could. ["Hear, hear!"]

Vote agreed to.

CLASS II.

7. £24,597 to complete the sum for Public Works Office, Ireland—Agreed to.

CLASS III.

8. £41,825 to complete the sum for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions, Ireland,—

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that he wished to ask how it was that the County Court Judge of Belfast held three other offices, while his Registrar held four other offices. Between them these two officials held nine separate offices.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND, in reply, said he was not aware that any serious inconvenience had been experienced. The County Court Judgeship in Down would be vacant before long, and a redistribution of those offices would then take place, which would obviate any inconvenience.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked that Belfast should be placed on the same footing as English towns of the same size. The combination of Registrar in Bankruptcy, County Court Judge and Recorder in one person was unknown anywhere else.

Vote agreed to.

9. £75,656, to complete the sum for Supreme Court of Judicature and other Legal Departments in Ireland —

MR. HORACE PLUNKETT complained that the salaries of the clerks in the Registry of Deeds were lower than those in other public offices, and that the work was as important and difficult. The clerks also complained of the slowness of promotion. The work of the office was very important, and was growing more important as the policy of land purchase in Ireland was developed. All he asked was that a thorough inquiry into the question should be instituted by the Treasury, with the representative of which should be associated some independent authority or some representative of the staff.

MR. CLANCY said that the work of those clerks was very important, requiring high intelligence, great training, and considerable education. He trusted that the moderate request for an inquiry into their position would be granted.

MR. HARRINGTON wished to point out that when those clerks joined the service, it was open to them to be promoted to the position of first-class clerks. In 1885 a Committee was appointed to inquire into the working of the office. It made various recommendations, but the only recommendation acted upon was one to the effect that the duties discharged in the office were duties that properly belonged to second division clerks, with the result that though the head of the Department—who had himself been a member of the Committee—recommended several of the clerks for promotion to the higher division, the promotions could not be granted. The third-class clerks of the office also complained of their position. There was also the case of the third class clerks who were promoted to the second division, and who, as an initial salary after promotion received less than they had done before.

*MR. HANBURY said that dissatisfaction did undoubtedly prevail in this office. It was quite distinct from any other; it required some technical knowledge; its whole organisation was at present in a transition stage; and the work was rapidly increasing. The clerks desired that instead of a yearly increment, an increase of salary should rather be the consequence of selection. He was not sure that that would not be a better system; and if the quality as well as the quantity of the work was increasing there were other questions to be considered. He promised to give the matter his personal attention. As to the abstractors mentioned by the hon. Member for South Dublin, they could not be promoted to the second division unless they started at the minimum salary of that division. They were originally copyists, and the Royal Commission on Civil Establishments recommended that that class should be swept away; but the Treasury for once was more tenderhearted than the Commission, and gave the men permanent employment as abstractors. They could not pass the qualifying examination for the second division; but in some cases men who had done good work had been promoted to the second division. They were comparatively young men, and it was well worth their while to enter at the lowest salary, considering the better prospect which was opened to them.

There was a good reason why they should not carry the higher salaries with them in promotion from the position of abstractors. If they did, they would be doing the same work as the junior second division clerks, side by side with them, and receiving salaries 50 per cent. higher.

Mr. HORACE PLUNKETT desired to point out that the abstractors who had been promoted had 12 years' service to their credit, and that their age would be 30, while that of the junior or second class clerks would be about 17.

Vote agreed to.

10. £42,258, to complete the sum for Irish Land Commission,—

Mr. DILLON asked whether the Treasury had decided that the Assistant Land Commissioners came under the 65th Rule? The effect of its application would be that the Land Commission would be deprived of the services of some of the most experienced and efficient men on its staff. It was, moreover, a hardship to retire men who were perfectly well able to discharge their duties; and the expense to the State was greatly increased. There was an admitted difficulty in finding capable and impartial men to administer the Land Laws.

*Mr. HANBURY said that as yet only one case had arisen—that of Mr. Rice. That gentleman was already 65, and there was some particular reason for retaining his services a month or six weeks longer. An application on that ground had been made to the Treasury, and had been granted. But the question whether the Assistant Commissioners came under the 65th Rule had not been submitted to the Treasury; and the Treasury had expressed no opinion on it.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL asked the Chief Secretary to impress on the Land Commission the desirability of completing sales as speedily as possible. The longer the sale was being considered, the more the tenant had to pay.

Vote agreed to.

The following Votes were agreed to without discussion:—

11. £77,700 to complete the sum for County Court Officers, etc., Ireland.

12. £66,298 to complete the sum for Dublin Metropolitan Police.

13. £70,642 to complete the sum for Prisons, Ireland.

14. £57,479 to complete the sum for Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Ireland.

15. £3,841 to complete the sum for Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland.

### Class VI.

16. £11,372 to complete the sum for Pauper Lunatics, Ireland.

17. £8,774 to complete the sum for Hospitals and Charities, Ireland.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

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## WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

## OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading (26th June), further adjourned till Monday next.

## LARCENY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

## BURGLARY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without question put.

House adjourned at Five minutes
after Twelve o'clock till
Monday next

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Monday, 27th July 1896.*

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

### COMMONS REGULATION (DARWEN) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (VISCOUNT CROSS) moved :—

"That the order made on the 16th day of March last, 'That no Bill brought from the House of Commons confirming any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate shall be read a Second time after Tuesday the 23rd day of June next,' be dispensed with, and that the Bill be read 2ª."

He observed that the Board of Agriculture were sincerely to be congratulated on having brought a difficult matter, which had occupied a long time, to a very satisfactory conclusion.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

### QUEEN'S REIGN.

LORD BRAYE asked the Government whether, inasmuch as on Wednesday, September 23rd next, the Queen would have reigned, D.V., more days than any other Sovereign of this Realm, in honour of such an auspicious and extraordinary event, they would introduce a Measure to constitute for this year only September 23 a holiday in the same sense as December 26 and certain other days were kept as holidays annually. The noble Lord quoted from a letter he addressed to *The Times* of September 2, 1885, advocating that the Queen's Jubilee should be celebrated in a manner suitably commemorative of a noble reign; and also from a letter he sent to the Press on September 21, 1895, calling attention to the fact that on the 23rd of that month in the ensuing year the Queen would have reigned longer than any other Sovereign over the English people. He observed that, whatever celebrations or rejoicings might be reserved for the next year, it appeared to him fitting that the particular day on which Her Majesty would have reigned for a longer period than any other Sovereign of the Realm should be kept as a Bank Holiday. He observed that he should like to read two letters which were addressed by him to the public newspapers some years ago, which had a distinct bearing upon the subject of his Question. The motives which led him to propose the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee were precisely the same as those which prompted his present Question :—He addressed the following letter to *The Times* of September 2, 1885 :—

"Sir,—Yet ten months and Queen Victoria (D.V.) will enter her year of jubilee. For celebrating such an event, it would seem fitting that long preparations should be made, not only in the United Kingdom, but throughout the Empire.

When George III. entered the 50th year of his reign, in 1809, great rejoicings took place in London, debtors were freed from prison, processions, attended by the King in person, were made to St. Paul's, and when the celebration in England had been concluded, it was renewed with extraordinary splendour in India the following year. An eye-witness has just described to me the ceremony at Windsor, where George III. and Queen Charlotte appeared on the terrace amid the cheers of the people. How few living can recollect that day.

If, then, such an event was kept with due honour, with so much more honour should Her Majesty's jubilee be observed, as her reign has surpassed in magnificence the reigns of all her predecessors.

If we place noble monuments on sites that can only be approached by many steps, in point of time are scarce ten months too long to prepare by degrees for the keeping of so glorious a year?

That year—namely, 1886—will be the 300th anniversary of the condemnation to death of Queen Mary Stuart by the last of our English Sovereigns—Elizabeth. Since Elizabeth, no monarch of purely English blood has occupied the English throne; while, on the other hand, the line of Mary Stuart has never ceased to be Sovereign until it has become most precious to us in the person of that great woman and great ruler, our present Queen.

England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, all four should vie with each other in this celebration. These, as four horses of widely varying tendency and mettle, are attached to the car of the British State. Of all metaphors, the reins of government in the hands of a ruler is the

> most frequent. May we extend it and say that in our Sovereign's hand those reins have been held with a skill as marvellous as the difference is great between four peoples of divergent race and ambition.
>
> It would be hard to number the motives which must suggest themselves both to the national and to the Imperial mind for the keeping of the jubilee with honour worthy—they surely must be without number, yet the chief of all must be the sense of gratitude for a co-existence of religious and political liberty unknown outside our Empire.
>
> That such a state of liberty has been brought about by the genius of the British peoples is a commonplace of history. It deserves to be also a commonplace, that it has been advanced by the genius of that exalted person, who for all but seven times seven years has guided our destinies."

All these suggestions were more than carried out, and it had occurred to him that this more extraordinary event even than the Jubilee should be celebrated. Of course, it was not until next year that the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign would be completed; nevertheless, on the 23rd September the Queen would have reigned longer, in point of days, than any other sovereign of these realms. He, therefore, on September 21st, 1895, addressed the following letter to *The Tablet* :—

> THE QUEEN'S SEXAGESIMAL.
>
> "SIR,—Encouraged by the recollection of the outburst of loyalty which attended the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, I venture to call attention to the advent of another and still more glorious occasion of Imperial rejoicing in the near future.
>
> "D.V., on September 23 next year our beloved Queen will have reigned longer than any other Sovereign over the English people.
>
> "May I, therefore, in a Catholic paper, as a Catholic conscious of the unspeakable blessings which have surrounded our religious liberties during their growth beneath the rule of the House of Hanover, be permitted to call public attention to the hope that the Queen's Sexagesimal (if I may so term it) may be celebrated duly and gratefully throughout the length and breadth of the land?
>
> "On September 2nd, 1885, *The Times* published a letter of mine advocating the observance of Her Majesty's Jubilee year—1886. It is true that the suggestion was followed out not in the fiftieth (*i.e.*, Jubilee year, 1886) but in the fifty-first year, 1887; nevertheless with a splendour and fitting magnificence that had had on parallel in modern chronicles.
>
> "In the Catholic press and from Catholic circles let the present suggestion first come forth. A year's preparation and a year's consideration is scarcely too long a period for the development of such a project — which is nothing less than the keeping of the sixtieth year of the most glorious reign written on the page of history."

The year on which he ventured to make these remarks was nearly brought to a close. It appeared to him it would be fitting, whatever celebration or rejoicing might be reserved for next year, that the particular day on which Her Majesty had reigned longer than any other sovereign of England, should be kept as a Bank Holiday.

THE PRIME MINISTER (The MARQUESS of SALISBURY): I hope the noble Lord will forgive me if I do not follow him throughout the whole of the considerations with which he dealt in his observations. I need not say that I imagine the whole House sympathises very deeply with the feelings which induced him to make this suggestion and with the thoughts by which those feelings were excited. But it is a subject obviously of an exceedingly delicate character, and I think the noble Lord will pardon me if I confine myself to the strictly business aspect of his suggestion. A holiday is practically impossible, or exceedingly difficult, unless it is a Bank Holiday. A Bank Holiday cannot be executed except by an Act of Parliament, and the noble Lord may have noticed that in this year and at the present time of the year the passage of an Act of Parliament is not exceedingly easy. I do not mean to say that this business ground is the only ground which weighs in my mind against the proposal of the noble Lord, but I think it is adequate. I think if it should please Parliament to give effect to its loyal sentiments in this particular manner, that the birthday of Her Majesty next year will be a more fitting occasion than the date to which the noble Lord has referred. But in any case the practical objections are very strong and I fear it would be impossible, while sympathising with the feelings of the noble Lord, to adopt his suggestion.

### LONDON UNIVERSITY COMMISSION BILL [H.L.].

Considered in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

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### COLLECTING SOCIETIES BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order); and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

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### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order); and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

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### LABOURERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Second Reading (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Thursday next.

House Adjourned at a Quarter before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, Eleven o'clock.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Monday, 27th July 1896.*

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## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

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### ABENSUR'S NATURALISATION BILL [H.L.].

Read the Third time, and passed, without Amendment.

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### MARINE ENGINEERS.

Return [presented 24th July] to be printed.—[No. 316.]

### CALEDONIAN CANAL.

Paper [presented 24th July] to be printed.—[No. 317.]

### VEXATIOUS ACTIONS BILL [H.L.].

Read the First time; to be read a Second time upon Thursday, and to be printed.—[Bill 325.]

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### PARLIAMENTARY COSTS BILL [H.L.].

Read the First time; to be read a Second time upon Thursday, and to be printed.—[Bill 236.]

## *QUESTIONS.*

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### INLAND REVENUE PROSECUTION (HIGHGATE).

MR. G. C. T. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether his attention has been drawn to the prosecution last week of Mr. Bandy, by the Inland Revenue, before the Highgate Bench of magistrates, for driving a vehicle without a licence on the 16th May; whether he is aware that it came out in the trial that Mr. Bandy had only on that very day purchased the vehicle and was driving it home for the first time, and that this fact was known to the Inland Revenue and its officer from the 16th May to the 6th July, and yet the prosecution was persisted in and the fact not stated by the Inland Revenue officials at the Court; whether he is aware that the Bench dismissed the summons with the rebuke that the case should never have been brought into Court; and, whether he will inquire into the matter, and take steps to prevent such annoyance and expense to persons from the Inland Revenue officers in future?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): Mr. Bandy was observed driving the vehicle on 16th April. Notice was sent to him as to the necessity of taking out a licence, but no licence was taken out till May 18th, after the time allowed by law had expired. The officer who reported the case mentioned the explanation given by Mr. Bandy—that he had only purchased the vehicle on the day in question. This explanation, however, was unfortunately overlooked at the Head

Office, and a prosecution was ordered. The Board of Inland Revenue much regret that such an oversight should have occurred, and I do not think any action of mine is necessary to prevent its recurrence.

### LOANS TO PARISH AUTHORITIES.

MR. VICARY GIBBS (Herts, St. Albans): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether it would be possible to reduce the rate of interest on loans granted to parish authorities?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: The Local Loans Fund, as at present constituted, cannot afford to reduce the rate of interest on local loans. The Government is bound by statute to pay 3 per cent. on all the stock by which the money for making the loans was raised, and, after payment of this interest and other statutory charges, the fund only just shows a balance on the right side.

### BARRACK ACCOMMODATION (DINGWALL, ROSS-SHIRE.)

MR. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that, owing to the absence of adequate barrack accommodation in Dingwall, the county town of Ross-shire, the men of the 3rd battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders (the Ross and Cromarty Militia) have to be annually taken by train to and from Fort George in Inverness-shire, a distance of 28 miles from Dingwall, at a cost of over £200 per annum: that at present there is only barrack accommodation in Dingwall for four sergeants; that the other members of the permanent staff, consisting of two staff sergeants, ten colour sergeants, eight sergeants, and ten drummers, have to find accommodation where they can, at a cost to the country of about £290 per annum; and that the allowance to the sergeants and drummers for such accommodation is only 4d. per diem; whether the Government will increase the allowance to an adequate sum; and whether a scheme for the creation of a depôt, with suitable accommodation in Dingwall for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd battalions of the Seaforth Highlanders, is under the consideration of the Government; and, if not, whether such a scheme, if submitted, would receive the favourable consideration of the Government?

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The question of removing the headquarters of the Seaforth Highlanders has frequently been considered, but as the quarters at Fort George are suitable and are not required for any other purpose, it has been held that the heavy expense involved in building barracks at Dingwall would not be justified. An increase in the rate of lodging allowance for married soldiers is under consideration.

### BRITISH TRADE ABROAD (COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉS).

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether Her Majesty's Government have recently increased the number of Commercial Attachés in Europe and taken other steps to advance British trade abroad; and, in such case, if he can indicate to the House the nature of the measures which have been adopted by Lord Salisbury and the Foreign Office to increase the demand in neutral markets for the products of British and Irish labour and to enable manufacturers and merchants in the United Kingdom to have the latest and most accurate commercial information?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, (Mr. GEORGE CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): Since Her Majesty's Government came into power, they have given very attentive consideration to the question of British commercial interests abroad, and in the Consular and Commercial Departments of the Foreign Office we have made the following suggestions, which have received the approval of the Secretary of State:—1. Two new Commercial Attachés will be appointed—one to Germany, the Netherland, and Scandinavia, to reside at Berlin; the other for Spain and Portugal, to reside at Madrid. The Commercial Attachéship at Paris has been re-organised, and its district will, in future, cover France, Belgium, and

Switzerland. The Commercial Attachéship in Russia and Western Asia has also been reconstituted, and the south-eastern parts of Europe have been included, while Asia has been excluded from its sphere. 2. A Consul for Lombardy has been appointed to reside at Milan with a special view to the collection of commercial information. The Consular Staff in Siam will be increased by two new appointments; but the exact area of the new Consuls' jurisdictions are not yet fixed. We hope before long to appoint additional British Consuls in Yunnan to promote the interests of British trade in that quarter. Several new Consulships are in course of being created for the new ports that have been opened to foreign trade by the Treaty of Shimonosoki between China and Japan. Mr. Brennen, Her Majesty's Consul at Canton, has been dispatched on a special mission of inquiry to the treaty ports of China, Corea and Japan, to report upon the manner in which British trade has been affected by the recent war. Mr. Austin Lee, who is about to succeed Sir Joseph Crewe as Commercial Attaché at Paris, is engaged in the preparation of a special Report upon the regulations with regard to trade and shipping of the Continental ports competing with the port of London. As a result of communications which have passed between the Foreign Office and the Association of Chambers of Commerce, supplementary instructions are in course of being issued to Her Majesty's Consuls regarding assistance to trade, the collection of samples, and information of a commercial nature. More complete arrangements have recently been made for the immediate publication in the Press of invitations for tenders for work abroad. Arrangements have been made for the official participation of Great Britain in the Exhibitions to be held next year at Brussels and in 1900 at Paris, and Parliament will be asked to make grants for this purpose.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) asked whether the Government would arrange for a discussion of the Diplomatic and Consular Vote.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) asked how many commercial attachés there were.

Mr. CURZON: There are two new attachés in Europe, and the spheres of the other commercial attachés have been reorganised. I believe that the First Lord of the Treasury is well aware of the views entertained by some hon. Members as to a Debate on the Consular Vote, and I am not at all anxious to avoid it.

## NIGER COMPANY.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether Her Majesty's Government can communicate to the House a list of, and any material portions of, the political treaties, exceeding 400 in number, which, according to the statement of the Chairman of the Company at its meeting of the 17th July, have been entered into by the Niger Company with native chiefs; whether there are still sufficient reasons for withholding from the public Sir Claude Macdonald's Report of 1890 regarding the Niger Company's territories, or whether the House can now be furnished at least with those portions of it to which the late Under Secretary of State alluded as in the main highly satisfactory; and whether it is now possible to communicate to the House the remainder of Sir John Kirk's Report, from which an extract only has hitherto been laid before the House?

Mr. CURZON: A list of some of these treaties, numbering over 340, with specimens of the forms in which they were concluded, was given in Vol. I. of the "Map of Africa by Treaty," a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House. The work in question is now under revision, and will shortly be reissued. Sir Claude Macdonald's Report of 1890, which was described by Sir James Fergusson when Under Secretary of State as of a satisfactory nature, was a confidential document, and it is not proposed to publish it. Sir John Kirk's Report on the Brass River has been laid in full. Her Majesty's Government do not propose to lay any opinions which may have been expressed by him for their confidential information.

## PARCEL POST (CUSTOMS DUTY).

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain why it is that the Customs Duty payable in the country of destination of a parcel sent abroad from the United Kingdom cannot be prepaid, but is collected from the addressee on delivery; and, whether he will direct that the sender of a parcel from this country to any place abroad shall be permitted to prepay in postage stamps the duty chargeable on such parcel in the country of destination?

*THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): Customs Duties are as a rule paid by the importer of dutiable goods, so that the addressee of a parcel sent abroad by Parcel Post is under no exceptional disability as distinguished from a recipient by ordinary agency in having to pay duty on the contents when he receives them. Believing however that in some cases it would be a convenience for the sender of a parcel if he could arrange for its delivery to the addressee free of all charges, the Postmaster General has for some time been considering whether such an arrangement would be practicable in connection with the Parcel Post. No decision has yet been arrived at. The difficulty is one which arises rather in connection with the transmission of presents and parcels of that description than with ordinary commercial consignments.

## SKIBBEREEN POOR LAW UNION (RATE COLLECTOR).

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork, Co., S): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that, in the case of Rate Collector Jervois, of the Skibbereen Poor Law Union, the Guardians have unanimously requested the Local Government Board to consider their decision that Mr. Jervois should be called on to resign in consequence of some alleged irregularities in his collection; will he state what the length of Mr. Jervois' service is, and whether the amount of arrears of rate due in his district has decreased since the date of his appointment; and, whether the Local Government Board can now see their way to accede to the request of the Guardians, and at any rate postpone their action so as to give the official in question a further period of probation?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Guardians have passed a resolution to the effect stated in the first paragraph. Mr. Jervois has had nearly 11 years service as collector. At the date of his appointment there was an arrear of £591, which amount has since been exceeded on three occasions. The average arrear since he entered on his duties has been £464, while the average of his predecessor for the last seven years he held the appointment was £206 and on one occasion stood as low as £46. The Local Government Board have also had in view the fact that only last year Mr. Jervois was threatened with dismissal, but in deference to the wishes of the Guardians was allowed to retain his position on the distinct understanding that if further well-grounded complaints were made against him, they would not permit him to continue in office. The Board now feel it would be contrary to the interests of the ratepayers of the union to allow Mr. Jervois to retain any longer the office of collector.

## POSTMASTER (OLD HEAD OF KINSALE).

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether an appointment has yet been made to the postmastership at the Old Head of Kinsale; whether the Secretary to the Post Office, Dublin, has received a memorial signed by the lighthouse keepers. coastguards, Lloyd's signal staff, and the principal residents of the district, recommending for the appointment the daughter of the late postmaster, who assisted in the office for eight years and discharged the duties during the illness of her father; and, in view of the fact that a licensed publican was appointed temporarily to the position after a delay of two months, will he state whether it is legal, or according to the practice of the Department, that a licensed publican should be appointed to the position of postmaster?

*MR. HANBURY: No appointment has yet been made to the Sub-office at Old Head, Kinsale. This office was until recently designated Garrylucas and was situate three-quarters of a mile from the village of Old Head, and on the death of the late sub-postmaster the opportunity was taken of removing it from Garrylucas to Old Head. Any memorial which may have been received at Dublin on behalf of the daughter of the late sub-postmaster of Garrylucas will be considered by the Postmaster General before he decides on the appointment. A publican is temporarily carrying on the work of the office. This is contrary to the usual practice of the Department but no one else could be found at Old Head to undertake it.

## TOWNLAND IMPROVEMENT (COUNTY MONAGHAN).

Mr. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, is he aware that a presentment passed at a special road sessions for the construction of a ditch or fence in the townland of Garryduff, county Monaghan, is actually being carried out in the different townland of Cargabawn; will he state by what authority has this change been made, and whether it is legal to change a contract in this way from one townland to another?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: A presentment was passed for certain alterations to a road in the townland of Garryduff. No departure from the terms of the presentment has been authorised by the grand jury, or county surveyor, nor would any work except that approved be accepted from the contractor in discharge of his contract.

## ALDERSHOT (MILITIA ENCAMPMENT).

Captain JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether there are sufficient tent boards at Aldershot to provide for the whole of the forces encamped in standing camps during the ensuing autumn; and, if so, whether there is any reason for regular regiments now in camp being ordered to give up their tent boards and hand them over to the Militia?

*Mr. BRODRICK: There are sufficient tent boards at Aldershot to meet all requirements of the Militia as well as of the standing camp for regulars at Pirbright. Tent boards are not, as a rule provided for regular troops, but are occasionally issued if recommended on medical grounds. If the General Officer commanding should consider them necessary for any corps, he would without doubt make a demand for them.

## EMIGRANTS' INFORMATION OFFICE.

Mr. JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he has now had the opportunity of considering the report of the subcommittee, appointed by the committee of management of the Emigrants' Information Office for the purpose of inquiring into the working of that office; and, if so, whether he has sanctioned the recommendations made in the report referred to; also, if he will permit the publication of the report?

Mr. J. F. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to his contemplated reorganisation of the Emigrants' Information Office, whether he will consider the advisability of locating the office in the group of buildings in Victoria Street, Westminster, now occupied by the Agents General for the Colonies; and, whether, with a view to increasing the efficiency of the Emigrants' Information Office, he will invite the active co-operation of the Agents General, as the official representatives of the Colonies, in its future management and control?

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): I have communicated the Report on the working of the Emigrants' Information Office to the Agents General for self-governing colonies and am considering their replies, but the whole of them have not yet reached me. The Committee have throughout received much valuable assistance from these gentlemen, and are able to look forward with pleasure to the continuance of their co-operation which they promise to give. But the addition of ten more members to the committee of management is a matter which would require much careful consideration, for large committees do not constitute the best machinery for dealing with a business which largely consists of details, and I should be afraid of diminishing the efficiency of a body which is now working admirably. Many of the recommendations made by the committee meet with my concurrence, and as soon as Treasury approval has been obtained for the increased expenditure I shall be in a position to give effect to such of the recommendations as are desirable. The Report, with a few other papers on the subject, shall be given to Parliament with as little delay as possible. The question of the premises to be occupied by the office will have to be dealt with shortly, but the buildings occupied by the Agents General are not Government property, and the rent of adequate accommodation there would, I much fear, be prohibitive.

### LAND JUDGES' COURT (IRELAND).

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Chief Receiver of the Land Judges' Court, on 30th April 1896, gave directions that a tenant upon Lord Huntingdon's estate should not be allowed to apply in the local County Court to fix a fair rent, but that this must be done by the Land Commission; will he obtain a copy of this ruling, and state why it was made; and who is the County Court Judge affected.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I am informed by the Chief Receiver of the Land Judges' Court that no ruling was made in which the County Court Judge was referred to. An ejectment was taken in the County Court against the tenant in question; his rent was £6 a year and he owed £69 to November 1895. Mr. Justice Ross ordered, with the consent of the owner and petitioner, £57 of this arrear to be struck off, and directed that the tenant should apply to the Sub-commissioners to have a fair rent fixed.

### ULSTER KING OF ARMS (RECORDS).

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Records in the Office of Ulster King of Arms in Dublin Castle are kept in a wooden cupboard, and are thereby exposed to irreparable loss by fire or accident; and will a safe be provided for them?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: It is a fact that the shelving on which the Records referred to are kept is of wood. The question of the safe custody of the Records was specially considered some years ago and the present keeper of the State Papers expressed the opinion that it would be sufficient to do away with the system of open fire places and to substitute hot water pipes in the Tower rooms. This arrangement was carried out.

### SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

Sir LEWIS McIVER (Edinburgh, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what steps steps have been taken with regard to the memorial presented in December 1893, to the Treasury through the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, on behalf of the employees in the Works Department there, praying that the petitioners might be accorded the benefit of superannuation; and what action the Treasury intend to take with regard to the request therein contained?

*Mr. HANBURY: The reply of the Treasury to this Memorial was given so far back as the 19th November 1894. In that reply it was stated that—

> "A proposal to review the general arrangements under which workmen in continuous Government employment are engaged on full market rate of wages, and without a claim to pension, is one which affects very large bodies of men, and could not be confined to a particular Department,"

and that the Treasury were "not prepared to disturb the existing regulations."

### RENEWAL OF LICENCE (DUNBAR).

Mr. JOHN WILSON (Lanark, Govan): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that in the burgh of Dunbar a hotel proprietor failed to apply for a renewal of his licence from the magistrates who are the licensing authority in the burgh, and no certificate being granted he obtained a licence from the Inland Revenue; and, whether there is anything to prevent the magistrates being habitually passed over, and application being made direct to the Inland Revenue Department?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The Inland Revenue have no power to grant a hotel licence without a certificate from the licensing magistrates. In this case the hotel proprietor applied for a certificate, but he inadvertently omitted to lodge his application till some days after the time for so doing had expired, and the licensing magistrates were, therefore, unable to grant a certificate. They, however, endorsed and unanimously supported a memorial from the proprietor to the Board of Inland Revenue, praying to be allowed to carry on his business till he should have another opportunity of applying for a certificate; and the Board, considering that he had failed to obtain a certificate merely because of a technical objection to his application, instructed their officers not to interfere with him in carrying on his business till he should have an opportunity to make another application.

## PORTRANE ASYLUM.

MR. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what steps are being taken by the Board of Control in connection with the erection of the new asylum at Portrane; and have tenders been publicly advertised for, or is it the intention of the Board to invite only a limited number of builders to enter?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: With the permission of my right hon. Friend, I will reply to this Question. Tenders for building the new asylum at Portrane were invited by public advertisement, and at the meeting of the Board of Control held on the 21st instant, one of the tenders received was accepted. Arrangements are now in progress for carrying on the work.

## BRISTOL CHANNEL EXCURSION STEAMERS.

SIR CAMERON GULL (Devon, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the frequent instances in which persons in a state of intoxication are landed from excursion steamers plying between Bristol and other ports in the Bristol Channel; and, if so, whether such steamers are under any licensing control as regards the supply of intoxicating liquors to passengers and others on board, and in what authority is the granting and control of such licences vested; whether, if licensed, the licensee of any such steamer would become liable to penalties and forfeiture of licence on conviction of having supplied intoxicating liquors to persons intoxicated; whether the local police of any port or the harbour authority of any port have power to prevent the landing of passengers and other persons from such steamers when such passengers and other persons are undoubtedly intoxicated; and, whether the owners or lessees of such steamers would be liable to penalties on conviction that they or their employees have not exercised reasonable means to prevent passengers from becoming intoxicated whilst on board such steamers by use of liquors the latter may have conveyed on board?

MR. HANBURY: The sale of intoxicating liquors on these steamers is carried on under a licence granted by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in pursuance of section 45 of the Act 43 & 44 Vic., cap 20. The Licensing Act of 1872 does not apply to these licences, and there are no provisions in the Act under which the licence is granted dealing with the sale of drink to intoxicated persons. As to what powers the police may have, under the Merchant Shipping or other Acts of that kind, I have no information.

## GUARANTEED LAND STOCK (LAND PURCHASE (IRELAND) ACT, 1891).

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what amount of Guaranteed Land Stock has been exchanged for consolidated annuities under Section 15 of the Land (Ireland) Purchase Act of 1891?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: On Friday last I stated in reply to a Question of the hon. Member for Cork that the amount of Guaranteed Land Stock held by the National Debt Commissioners was £1,558,862. It now appears that the amount was understated, and that it should have been stated to be £1,672,882. This sum includes the stock held by the Bank of Ireland, who act as agents for the National Debt Commissioners.

**Mr. JOHN MORLEY**: That is, about one and a half millions have been exchanged for Consols?

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR**: It is something like that.

## VENEZUELA.

**Mr. JOHN MORLEY**: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will lay upon the Table the statement of the Venezuelan case submitted to the American Commission of Inquiry?

**Mr. CURZON**: The Venezuelan statement is not yet in our possession. It is being sent home by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington, and when received there will be no objection to laying copies before Parliament.

**Mr. JOHN MORLEY**: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay upon the Table any information as to the limits and present condition as to the population and otherwise of the "Settlements" within the territory in dispute between Her Majesty's Government and the Republic of Venezuela?

**Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN**: The definition of settlements and the determination of what constitutes occupation have to be decided in the first place by negotiation and afterwards by detailed inquiry on the spot. I am afraid I have no information which would enable me beforehand to state the limits and conditions of settlements in British Guiana.

**Mr. JOHN MORLEY** said the question was whether Lord Salisbury promised Mr. Olney, in reply to two applications, to consult the right hon. Gentleman and to convey to Mr. Olney the views which he hoped to ascertain from his right hon. Friend. Had any information of this kind been conveyed to the American Government?

**Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN** understood that his right hon. Friend was asking as to the correspondence which had passed between the Foreign Secretary and Mr. Olney. The right hon. Gentleman ought to give notice of the Question.

*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*

## POSTAL REGULATIONS (TRANSMISSION OF CHEQUES).

**Mr. GORELL BARNES** (Kent, Faversham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain why it is that a cheque crossed to payee's account and payable at a specified bank may be written on an ordinary postcard, and so transmitted through the post, whereas it is forbidden by the regulations to transmit an ordinary cheque, crossed and payable as aforesaid, in an open envelope at the halfpenny book-post rate; and, whether he will direct that in future a cheque crossed to payee's account and payable at a specified bank shall be transmissible (as being valueless to any but the person named therein as payee) in an open envelope at the book-rate?

***Mr. HANBURY**: It does so happen that there is no regulation forbidding the transmission by post of an ordinary postcard on which a cheque crossed or otherwise may have been written, but the Postmaster General has never heard of such a postcard having been sent—[my hon. Friend Mr. Barnes, has however, just shown me one]—and if cheques were so sent it might be the duty of the Postmaster General to take measures to stop the practice. The transmission of paper money of any kind in open envelopes is obviously undesirable and places temptation in the way of officers of the Department and others into whose hands the packets may come. Paper money is defined in the warrant which forbids the transmission of such packets as meaning, *inter alia*, "all orders and authorities for the payment of money whether negotiable or not," and the Postmaster General is not prepared to take any steps for allowing crossed cheques to be sent in open covers at the book-post rate.

**Mr. BARNES**: May I ask whether the postcard which I have shown to the right hon. Gentleman has been sent through the Post Office contrary to regulations?

***Mr. HANBURY**: I do not think it is contrary to the regulations at present. But the Postmaster General is of opinion that if it becomes a habit a regulation would have to be framed forbidding it.

Mr. BARNES: At the present moment the sending of such cheques is not forbidden?

Mr. HANBURY: No, Sir.

### CAVAN AND LEITRIM LIGHT RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. JASPER TULLY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether he can state at what period the block of 6,100 shares held by the Board of Works as a lien on the Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway Company were sold at $\frac{3}{16}$ths premium, and when the block of 2,578 shares were sold at £2 15s. premium; and, what would have been the reduction in the annual contribution from the cess-payers in the guaranteeing area in South Leitrim if all these shares had been sold at £2 15s. premium.

*Mr. HANBURY: There was a misprint in the report on which my last answer on this subject was based, and the $5\frac{3}{16}$ should have been $5\frac{13}{16}$. The 6,100 shares which realised $5\frac{13}{16}$ were sold at various dates between 25th March 1891 and 30th September 1892. The 2,578 shares were transferred in the present year, 2,525 on the 29th April and 53 on the 14th May. The sales took place a few days before the transfers. If the 6,100 shares had been sold at $7\frac{3}{4}$, the reduction in the annual contribution of South Leitrim would have been approximately $2\frac{1}{4}$d. instead of $1\frac{1}{4}$d. per £ of valuation. In addition to the shares being held as security, the Board also had in respect of them all the powers of sale of an ordinary shareholder. The intention of the Treasury was to realise as soon as the 4 per cent. shares (West Clare) approached par and the 5 per cent. shares a fairly proportionate price. The price of $5\frac{13}{16}$ equals £116 per 100, which was about equal to par for 4 per cent. stock.

### INDEX TO ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

Mr. J. BRIGG (York, W.R., Keighley): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the inquiry he promised to make early in the Session as to the practicability of issuing a new index to the Acts of Parliament prior to 1800, as also of those passed in the years 1800 to 1865 has been held; and, if so, will he give orders to the officials concerned to make the necessary preparations for carrying out the work as soon as possible?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: I have inquired into this matter, and, so far as I am able to judge, the index would not be of such interest or utility to the general public as would justify the expenditure which its issue would involve. But, if I should receive any recommendation from the Statute Law Revision Committee on this subject, of course I will further consider it.

### NATIONAL SCHOOL HOUSES (IRELAND)

Mr. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that managers of national schools in Ireland, when they desire to build residences for their teachers, have to provide sites, incur all expenses of title, produce two lay sureties under 45 years of age each holding property worth £400, keep the houses in repair after they are built at their own expense, and pay all taxes; is he aware that the rate now charged for the money advanced is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., though Government can borrow at $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.; is he aware that the teachers in many parts of Ireland are very much in need of suitable residences; and, will he consider this matter with a view of reducing the rate of interest and removing the difficulties imposed upon managers at the present time; so as to facilitate the erection of houses for the teachers of national schools in Ireland?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Managers who apply for loans with which to build teachers' residences have to provide sites and to bear the incidental legal expenses, including the cost of the leases, but the sureties need not be worth £400; it is sufficient if they are solvent to the satisfaction of the Commissioners. Moreover, if such a residence is vested in the Commissioners, it is maintained by the State without cost to the manager. The rate of interest charged on these loans is £3 8s. 3d.; the inquiry as to the rate at which the Government borrow money should be addressed to the Treasury. It is true, I believe, that teachers in many parts of Ireland are much in need of suitable residences. There is no limitation to the number of loans that may be granted each year for such residences, and the number of applications for loans to build residences since 1875, when the Residences Act came into operation, is 1,175. I have already, in previous answers to questions on this subject, mentioned that very substantial aid is given by the Commissioners to managers in the matter of these loans by contributing one-half of the annual instalment payable in re-imbursements of the loans. The borrower accordingly pays only a moiety of the annuity during the outstanding of the loan.

### MADAGASCAR.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if he can make any statement with regard to negotiations with France as to Madagascar; and, whether concessions by the Government of Madagascar made before the recent invasion have been divided into two classes, of which one is to be regarded as void, while the other is to be annulled with compensation?

Mr. CURZON: The negotiations with France as to Madagascar are still pending and I regret that I have at present nothing to add to the last statement which I made on the subject. It is understood that no final decision has yet been taken by the French Government in regard to concessions in the island.

### SAMOA.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if Her Majesty's Government is aware that another King has been elected in Samoa in opposition to Malietoa, at German instigation, in the person of young Tamasese; if he is also aware that Herr Brandeis, whose endeavours to annex Samoa to Germany some years ago were only defeated by the action of the United States, is returning to Samoa next month in the capacity of Chief Justice: if Her Majesty's Government has agreed to the annexation of Samoa by Germany; and, if not, what steps does it propose to take to prevent such annexation?

Mr. CURZON: The answer to all three questions is in the negative.

*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*

### LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

Mr. FRANCIS STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether the Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill will be introduced again next Session; whether, in that case, the names which may have been handed in by Members this year at the Public Bill Office will be inserted in the schedule, or whether a fresh nomination will be necessary; and, whether the Measure will provide for the removal of the property qualification, by which the choice of suitable persons is at present restricted?

*Mr. HANBURY: Yes, Sir, the Bill will be re-introduced next Session. The Gentlemen whose names have been handed in at the Public Bill Office will not necessarily have to be nominated afresh. As regards the last paragraph, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has already stated, in reply to a question put by the hon. Member for Flint Boroughs on the 23rd instant, that he is not, at any rate at present, in a position to propose any alteration in the law.

### BAKEHOUSES.

Mr. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his attention has been called to proceedings under Sub-section (3), of Section (27), of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895; and, whether he can state, in view of the conflicting decisions arrived at by various magistrates, if the sub-section is intended to apply to bakehouses temporarily unoccupied on the 1st of January 1896?

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir Matthew White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool): I have seen newspaper reports of two cases in which proceedings have been instituted under the sub-section referred to. The question, however, as to the correct interpretation of the sub-section is one of law which I have no authority to decide and which can only be settled by an appeal to the High Court. I understand that in both cases appeals are pending.

### ALDERSHOT (EAST AND WEST CAVALRY BARRACKS).

**Captain JESSEL**: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether, seeing that the drains of the East and West Cavalry Barracks at Aldershot are being overhauled, and that the men and horses have been sent into camp on account of the drains, will he explain why the women and children belonging to these regiments are still occupying the barracks?

***Mr. BRODRICK**: The old drains in the Cavalry Barracks at Aldershot have not yet been opened; but it was necessary to remove the men and horses in order to facilitate the laying of new drain pipes. These new pipes have not yet been connected with the buildings. The branches of the drains which drain the married quarters will not be disturbed, so that, with the principal Medical Officer's consent, the women and children are at present left in occupation. Every precaution will be taken in regard to the matter in question.

### PORTSDOWN HILL FORTS (2nd WILTSHIRE REGIMENT).

**Mr. CHARLES COLSTON** (Gloucester, Thornbury): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether the practice prevailing in the Portsmouth district is, that the regiment quartered in the Portsdown Hill Forts, several miles out, shall be moved into the town on any barracks becoming vacant; whether an exception has been made in the case of the 2nd Wiltshire; and, whether the Secretary of State has reason to believe that it is the general wish and desire of the regiment that the usual rule should in their case be strictly adhered to as soon as an opportunity occurs?

***Mr. BRODRICK**: The distribution of troops within a command is a matter for the General Officer to settle. I believe that the usual practice is as stated in the question. In the case of the Wiltshire Regiment it has been departed from at the request of the Commanding Officer.

### NAZIM PASHA AND THE ARMENIAN COUNCILS.

**Mr. FRANCIS STEVENSON**: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether his attention has been called to the action of the Turkish Minister of Police, Nazim Pasha, who summoned the members of the clerical and lay Armenian Councils, and, after stating that he held them personally responsible for any disorders that might occur, threatened them individually with the severest penalties; whether the clerical and lay Armenian Councils, being bodies constituted solely for ecclesiastical purposes, can be properly held responsible for the maintenance of order in the Turkish capital; whether the interference of Nazim Pasha with the members of those Councils, and the threats used by him, contravene the 62nd Article of the Berlin Treaty, which stipulates that no hindrance shall be offered either to the ecclesiastical organisations of the various communions or to their relations with their spiritual chiefs; and, what action has been taken or will be taken by Great Britain and the other contracting Powers?

**Mr. CURZON**: It would appear from a Report received from Her Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires at Constantinople this morning, that a warning of the kind was given to the lay members of the Patriarchal Council, though Mr. Herbert does not mention that the members of the Council were threatened individually with severe penalties. The extent to which they could properly be held responsible for any disorders would, no doubt, depend on evidence of their complicity in them. The warning can scarcely, however, be said to be a contravention of Article LXII. of the Treaty of Berlin. Her Majesty's Government have not yet learned the view of the other signatory Powers on the incident, and must reserve their decision until they do so.

### GOLD COAST (NATIVE AND EUROPEAN DOCTORS).

**Dr. FARQUHARSON** (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he will explain the reason for the inequality of treatment which exists between the native and European doctors officially employed on the Gold Coast, under which English surgeons get leave every year, and when they come to Europe, not only have a free passage, but full pay during their absence from the Colony, whereas their native brethren have to wait several years before they can obtain a temporary release from their duties, and have then to pay their passage, and only receive half pay for half the period of their leave.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: This treatment is not peculiar to doctors, but the Colony cannot afford to give the same terms as to leave which are necessary to enable Europeans to work on the Gold Coast, to men, who, being natives, are inured to the climate, and do not want a frequent change to a cold climate.

### LABOURERS' DWELLINGS (COUNTY CAVAN).

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, will he explain why it is that, although an Inquiry under the Labourers Acts was held in February 1895 in Cavan, at which 33 cottages were passed for erection, no arbitration Inquiry has been held; and, can he explain the delay in these proceedings, or state who is to blame in the matter?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The Provisional Order confirming the Scheme for the erection of 32, not 33, cottages was issued by the Local Government Board in November last. Petitions having since been lodged against the Order, the cases were heard by the Privy Council on the 16th instant, and the confirming Order is expected to be issued immediately. Until this has been done the Arbitrator cannot hold a sitting. There has been no avoidable delay in the proceedings.

### COVENT GARDEN THEATRICAL FUND.

Mr. HOGAN: I beg to ask the hon. Member for Thirsk, as a Charity Commissioner, whether he is aware that a considerable portion of the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund has accrued from the contributions of the charitable public in bygone years; and, whether that fact will bring the fund and its proper management within the official purview of the Charity Commissioners?

Mr. GRANT LAWSON (York, N.R., Thirsk): All the information which the Charity Commissioners possess as to this Fund is derived from the Act of 12 Geo. III., mentioned in the answer to the Question previously put. The Commissioners are not aware that a considerable portion of the Fund is derived from contributions as stated in the Question. But as the Act already mentioned deals with the fund as a benefit society it does not appear that the presence of these contributions would operate to remove the exemption from the jurisdiction of the Commissioners accorded to benefit societies.

### JUDICIAL COMMITTEE (COLONIAL JUDGE).

Mr. HOGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether any progress has been made in the matter of nominating a Colonial Judge as a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Chief Justice of the Cape Colony has been appointed a member of the Privy Council. I have received communications on the subject from the Governors of various Colonies of Australasia, and am expecting to hear further in a short time. I have not as yet received any communication from the Governor General of Canada.

### COMMISSIONERS OF IRISH LIGHTS (ACTION FOR WRONGFUL DISMISSAL).

Mr. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state what was the amount of the bill of costs, expenses, and other charges paid or payable by the Commissioners of Irish Lights to their own solicitor for the defence of the action of Harrison against them; and, whether he can give the name of the present contractor employed to attend the Slyne Head Lighthouse stations, and the date of his contract with the Irish Lights Commissioners?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. C. T. Ritchie, Croydon): The costs paid by the Commissioners of Irish Lights to their solicitor in Harrison's case were £243 0s. 6d.; the witnesses' expenses were £46 1s. 8d. The present contractor employed to attend the Slyne Head Lighthouse Stations is John King, Slackport, County Galway, whose tender was sanctioned on the 24th August 1895.

### TOWN TENANTS (IRELAND).

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government will consider the subject of Town Tenants, and bring in a Bill next Session dealing with the matter?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Government cannot give any pledge to deal with this matter.

### SUPPLEMENTARY FEE GRANT (SCOTLAND).

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, having regard to the fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has admitted the justice of Ireland being paid the amount short paid of the Fee Grant payable to Ireland, the Scotch Office will make a similar demand upon the Treasury on behalf of Scotland for payment of the amount short paid of the Fee Grant to Scotland?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: The Scotch Education Department has repeatedly pressed upon the attention of the Treasury the claim which arises on behalf of Scotland in respect of the supplementary fee grants to England during the financial years from 1892–93. The Treasury have admitted that claim in respect of the financial year 1895–96, and have submitted a supplementary estimate accordingly. The Scotch Education Department is still in communication with the Treasury in regard to the question of the arrears in respect of the preceding years.

### INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (BOYS FOR NAVY).

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty will he explain why boys who propose to join the Navy from industrial schools are entered on a form which denotes that they are suffering from some disability; and whether, in view of the advantage of encouraging boys carefully trained in these schools to enter the Navy, steps will be taken to place such lads upon an equal footing with other candidates?

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. W. E. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): Boys entering the Navy from industrial schools execute the same form of engagement as all other boys, and after entry are on precisely the same footing. There is no form of the character alluded to in the first paragraph of the Question.

### NEWBLISS PETTY SESSIONS COURT.

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what steps have been taken by the Lord Chancellor of Ireland to remove the Petty Sessions Court of Newbliss from the building in that town used as an Orange lodge; what steps the Lord Chancellor of Ireland has taken in regard to the magistrates who joined in an Orange demonstration in Newbliss on the 13th July instant, wearing orange sashes and other party decorations; and, has any correspondence passed between the Lord Chancellor and these magistrates; and, if so, will he have it laid upon the Table of the House?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: On Tuesday last I stated that the attention of the Lord Chancellor had been drawn to the occupation on the 13th inst. of the justices' room at Newbliss by a number of members of Orange lodges. As to what action, if any, it may be proposed to take in this connection, the matter is obviously one requiring reasonable time for inquiry and consideration; but the Lord Chancellor informs me that he has taken no action, nor does he propose to take any, with regard to the participation of certain magistrates in the demonstration of the 13th inst. by wearing sashes and party decorations. I am not aware whether any correspondence has passed between the Lord Chancellor and these gentlemen; but, in any event, if such a correspondence should take place, I cannot promise to lay it on the Table of the House.

### IRISH TREASON-FELONY PRISONERS.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is prepared to recommend to His Excellency that the approaching celebration of the reign of Her Majesty the Queen as the longest in English history should be signalised by the granting of amnesty to all the prisoners confined in prisons in Ireland for agrarian and offences arising out of the agrarian troubles in that country during the last fifteen years?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: This Question is one that should be addressed to the First Lord of the Treasury.

## BELFAST WORKHOUSE.

MR. McCARTAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland,—(1) whether the Board of Poor Law Guardians of Belfast Union had any legal authority for admitting to the workhouse from the district asylum Eliza Jane Hanna, who did not belong to the union of Belfast, and by what authority did the auditor to the Local Government pass the charge of her maintenance on the rates of Belfast; (2) whether he will give the name of the pauper who was exchanged for Eliza Jane Hanna; (3) whether it was at the instance of the Local Government Board or the Board of Control that the system of exchanges between patients in the workhouse and asylum at Belfast was instituted; (4) whether the Local Government Board will make careful inquiry into the matter before it now gives its approval to this system which facilitates the removal of the afflicted poor from properly equipped asylums to places never intended for the reception of such cases; (5) whether he will state what number of such transferred patients were on the 18th instant in Belfast Workhouse, not belonging to Belfast Union but illegally kept there at the expense of the Belfast ratepayers; (6) and what is to be done as to the illegality of the admission and charge of maintenance in these cases?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Patients in asylums are transferred to the workhouses of the district from which they come under the provisions of the 11th Section of the Act of 1875, but in this case it would seem that instead of being sent to the Antrim Workhouse, to which she was properly chargeable, Hanna was transferred to the Belfast Workhouse in exchange for Margaret Dendinney, a dangerous lunatic requiring Asylum treatment. This transfer appears to have been the result of a private arrangement which existed between the Guardians and the Asylum Governors, but this practice was discontinued in March, 1894. It was neither at the instance of the Local Government Board nor of the Board of Control that this system was instituted. The Auditor states it would not be possible for him to verify the chargeability of every person admitted to the workhouse. This is a matter for the Guardians to decide at their next meeting subsequent to such admission. As to the fourth paragraph, communications, I understand, are being carried out between the Guardians and the Asylum Governors with reference to the interchange of inmates. There were twelve transferred patients in Belfast Workhouse on the 18th instant who were not properly chargeable to that Union, and arrangements are being made to re-tranfer them back to the Asylum as soon as possible.

## ABDULLAH PASHA AND CRETAN ASSEMBLY.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the Foreign Office have yet received official information respecting the Convocation of the Cretan Assembly at Canea; has any information as to the truth of the statement that Abdullah Pasha, Military Governor, entered the Chamber, together with the Governor General, and officially took part in the proceedings; and, whether in view of the tension of feeling existing in the Assembly, the Ambassadors of the Powers will make adequate representation to the Porte concerning these departures from established usage.

MR. CURZON: No Dispatches with regard to the opening of the Cretan Assembly have yet been received from Her Majesty's Consul, and his telegraphic reports do not mention that Abdullah Pasha entered the Chamber with the Governor General and officially took part in the proceedings.

MR. FLYNN asked whether though this Convocation had met on the 17th inst., no Dispatches had yet been received?

MR. CURZON said that the hon. Member had asked as to the receipt of official information. But neither in telegrams nor in Dispatches was any mention made of the particular incident to which the hon. Member referred.

## CRETAN ASSEMBLY.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he has any information as to the truth of the statement that at the opening of the Convocation of Canea, the speech of the Vali was read in the Turkish tongue, though Greek is the language prescribed by the Halifa constitution; and, if so, whether, taking into account the vital importance of inducing both sections of the Assembly to work in harmony, the conduct of the Turkish authorities will form the subject of investigation by the representatives of the Powers?

MR. CURZON: Her Majesty's Consul in Crete has reported that the Assembly met on the 13th inst., and that contrary to precedent the opening speech was delivered in Turkish, an innovation against which the Christian deputies remonstrated. The speech was subsequently read in Greek. The representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, when full information has reached them, will no doubt consider whether this matter should form the subject of investigation.

MR. FLYNN asked whether the Convocation had not met for the past week, and that the suspension was largely owing to the incidents mentioned in the two questions?

MR. CURZON thought that the information of the hon. Member was incorrect. He believed that the Convocation was sitting at the present time.

MR. FLYNN: There is no business being done. [*Laughter.*]

## FIGHTING IN CRETE.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House any information concerning the unfortunate invasion of Apokorona by the Turkish troops and the fighting consequent upon this breach of the truce previously agreed upon; was this expedition undertaken with the sanction of Abdullah Pasha; and what representations, if any, have been made to the Porte by the Powers?

MR. CURZON: No detailed information with regard to the fighting in the neighbourhood of Kalyves has been received since the reply given to the hon. Member's Question on the 16th instant. Her Majesty's Consul in Crete has reported by telegraph that hostilities continued on the 16th and 17th, and that he had obtained private information that 50 Turkish soldiers had been killed or wounded and that the troops had returned to Kalyves. There was no information as to the losses of the Christians. In the present state of our information it is impossible to say whether the expedition was undertaken with the sanction of Abdullah Pasha, or whether the facts are such as to justify a representation to the Porte.

## EAST LONDON WATER COMPANY.

MR. H. S. SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, if he can give the House any information as to the result of his endeavours to obtain from the neighbouring Companies a supply of water for the East London Water Company sufficient to enable it to carry out its obligations to its customers?

MR. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that, while the East London Water Company published notices restricting the supply to six hours a day, they did not specify the hours, and last week, in various parts of the East End, water was turned off without any notice whatever. Would the right hon. Gentleman impress on the Company the importance of giving adequate notice as to the hours?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I have already done that, and I have put all the pressure I can upon them, and no doubt effect will be given to the representations. I have not yet received any information which enables me to state that a definite arrangement has been made, but I am doing everything that I can to bring about an agreement between the two companies in this matter.

## NAVAL RESERVE VESSEL (KIRKWALL).

MR. HEDDERWICK: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he will explain the grounds upon which he declines to station a Naval Reserve vessel for two or three winter months at Kirkwall?

**Mr. MACARTNEY**: No public advantage would result from the action suggested in the hon. Member's question.

## PASTOR KHAMIS.

**Mr. JOHN WILSON** (Govan): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if the inquiries into the case of Pastor Khamis, now imprisoned in Dizza, included any investigation into the nature of the treasonable correspondence carried on by him, or whether the allegations were accepted as correct on the authority of Turkish officials; whether he is aware that the only apparent grounds for the said allegations were letters from the aged pastor to his two sons in this country, asking for pecuniary aid towards his own subsistence, he being nearly 80 years of age; and, whether these letters were construed by the Turkish officials into applications for funds for the purpose of insurrection?

**Mr. CURZON**: The inquiries into the case of Pastor Khamis were made by Her Majesty's Vice Consul at Van, who satisfied himself that there were sufficient reasons for the institution of proceedings. As stated in answer to a previous question, besides correspondence a diary containing accusations against the Turkish Government was found in possession of the Pastor.

## ULSTER LANDLORDS (FLAX-GROWING DISTRICTS).

**Mr. McCARTAN**: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the generous reductions in rent alleged to have been given by Ulster landlords in flax-growing districts, whether such reductions were given in respect of last year's rent upon any, and, if so, how many, of the large estates in the counties of Antrim and Down, where flax is largely grown?

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR**: The counties referred to by myself and by my right hon. Friend the Attorney General on the 20th February and 13th April last were Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Londonderry, and Tyrone. I have no information as regards Antrim. The estates in Co. Down, particulars of which I had before me when the previous answers were given, were five in number, but I have no reason to believe that the list was exhaustive.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

**Mr. E. STRACHEY** (Somerset, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, what Bills will be taken on Wednesday and Thursday?

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY** (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): The hon. Member will see that much depends on what is done to-night and to-morrow as to what business will be taken on Wednesday and Thursday. I cannot give the hon. Member a definite answer.

## RHODESIA RISING.

***Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT** (Sheffield, Ecclesall) asked whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies had received any request from Sir F. Carrington for military reinforcements, and if so, whether Her Majesty's Government proposed to send more troops to South Africa?

**Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN**: Up to the present I have not received any communication of that kind.

**Mr. RADCLIFFE COOKE** (Hereford) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had received any information, in addition to what had appeared in the newspapers, with reference to the defeat of the British forces?

**Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN**: No; I do not believe that there has been any defeat of British forces. [*Cheers.*] The only information I have is in the following telegram:—

> "Lieutenant-General Goodenough to Mr. Chamberlain. Received 11 p.m., July 26, 1896. July 26.—Following telegram received from Carrington:—(Begins) July 25.—Nicholson engaged enemy to-day in Inugo Gorge; failed to draw them out into open from position in kopjes. Cape boys stormed kopjes. Our casualities seven wounded; British South Africa Company's Police Troopers W. L. Cheves, W. Bern, R. Heathfield, J. Bell, Corporal J. Porter, and two Cape boys. Nicholson's force expected back here to-night (ends). Christian names will be sent when received."

## COLONIAL VOTE.

**Mr. BYRON REED** (Bradford, E.) asked the First Lord of the Treasury when he intended to take the Colonial Vote?

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY** replied that he could not make a definite announcement, but he would remind the hon. Member that the Vote had already been discussed on one day, if not on two.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT asked whether the House had not been promised that an opportunity would be given for a discussion of the affairs of the Transvaal on the Colonial Vote, and whether the right hon. Gentleman would consent to put the Vote down first on one of the days still available for Supply?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY did not think that he could do as the hon. Member desired. He would point out that when the Vote was last before the Committee it was competent to hon Members to raise the South African Question.

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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### UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a Second time."

MR. LABOUCHERE moved to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, in order to add instead thereof the words—

> "this House is of opinion that no further public funds should be voted for making this railway until more clear and definite estimates of its cost are presented."

He said that they had drifted into the construction of this railway in a most unbusinesslike fashion. There were many persons in this country who had a kind of earth hunger—it was a sort of disease—and their attention in late years had been mainly directed to Africa. The British East Africa Company having given up Uganda as a bad speculation, the Government took it over. The reasons given for that action were, in his opinion, very insufficient. It had been said that we must go to Uganda in order to hasten the suppression of the slave trade, but, as a matter of fact, we should do a great deal more in that direction by putting an end to slavery at Mombasa and Zanzibar than could be done by going into the interior of Africa. In Uganda slavery was a domestic institution. He believed that there were more slaves than free men in that country, and, although we had established a protectorate over it, we had done nothing to abolish the system which flourished under our flag. Then pictures had been drawn of vast numbers of Englishmen going to this tropical region as colonists with their wives and children. As a matter of fact, those pictures where wholly fantastic. Even if European men could live in this region, their children could not. The case was very similar to that of India, where they did not find European colonists. Men went to India in order to make money, and returned as soon as they possibly could to England, where their families usually remained during their absence. Another argument used was that we ought to extend the area of our Empire in order to extend the area of our commercial relations. In Uganda, however, there was absolutely no prospect of commerce. Cereals could never be grown there because he supposed that ultimately we should have to put an end to the system of domestic slavery, and about the last thing that a native freeman would think of doing would be to devote himself to agricultural pursuits. Possibly a little cochineal might be obtained in Uganda, but the export trade would mainly be in ivory, which was diminishing in quantity every year in consequence of the destruction of the elephants. Looking at the railway as a matter of speculation, a worse speculation could not be presented to the public than the investment of public money in Uganda. The frontier was too indefinite. At the outset it was distinctly stated that our Protectorate would be limited to Uganda. He stated at the time that it was almost impossible to limit it, and he was right, for he saw the other day in the *Gazette* that Unyoro was added to it? Where were we to stop? Directly we had taken one place that was given as a reason for taking another; and thus we should go on spreading ourselves over the whole of tropical Africa. How many Europeans were there in Uganda? He did not believe there were 100. We had taken on our shoulders a quantity of Soudanese ruffians, who were about the most objectionable set of scoundrels that ever existed. He had no doubt that when they were not under the eye of their officer they went about the country ravishing and stealing. Absurdity followed on absurdity. Having taken this precious Elysium on our shoulders it was now contemplated to make a railway to it. Lake Nyassa was situated about 657 miles from the East Coast. Therefore that would be the length of the railway. It would pass through a country which was practically a desert, and where there was a little grass and water it was inhabited by desperately fierce tribes.

Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster): They were our police.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: The hon. Member, who was a director of the British East Africa Company, said that these tribes were his police, yet they had been told that a whole caravan had been destroyed by them. [*Laughter.*] The Under Secretary certainly told the House that that was not the fault of the Masai, but occurred through some little misunderstanding. [*Laughter.*] At any rate the line would have to pass through the country of these respectable and virtuous Masai, and according to the survey every station would have to be a fortress, and every man employed would have to be armed. The House ought at least to know what would be the cost of the railway. It was stated in 1891 that at a cost of £20,000 to this country a species of survey was made and the figure was put down at £2,240,000. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer and his colleagues reduced that to £1,157,000, which had now been increased to £3,000,000. His own impression was that it would cost more than £5,000,000. He was not surprised at all this, for he had never yet heard that the Foreign Office was gifted in the way of making railroads. If anyone was calculated to make a mess of it it would, he should think, be the Foreign Office. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] Tenders were put forward by the Foreign Office for rails and two estimates were sent in—one from Barrow and one from Cardiff. The former was 1s. 6d. per ton higher than the latter, but it was accepted because the Foreign Office thought they would have to send out sleepers which they thought could be obtained near Cardiff. But when they had entered into the contract they were told that English sleepers would be of no use, because they were destroyed by insects. [*Laughter.*] They, therefore, cancelled the contract, paying compensation, and had to pay 1s. 6d. a ton more than they need for their rails. If this railway did cost £5,000,000, as he believed it would, that meant saddling £150,000 per annum on that country for 30 years. Most railways were expected to pay, but nobody expected this line to pay, and the estimates of traffic made out a large and permanent deficit which might be taken at another £30,000 per annum. If the country was to go into the business of building railways it would be infinitely better they should be built at home. ["Hear, hear!"] Agriculture in England did not want the Government to give facilities for materials to be brought down from the centre of Africa. What it wanted was facilities of communication in England, so as to be able to compete with the foreigner in this country. When we had put every part of England into communication with markets, then we might consider whether money should be wasted in this foolish way in Africa. ["Hear, hear!"] If the British taxpayer was to be called to upon spend money in Africa at all, the money would be better expended upon lines in South Africa instead of in tropical Africa. They were once told that it was necessary to make a railroad to Berber, and, in fact, a large sum of money was expended in the partial construction of the line. But where was that railway now? Why, after constructing a certain portion of it, it was given up as a bad job by the intelligent Government that was then in power, and all that remained of it now was a certain amount of iron, which was being used by the Soudanese in resisting our inroad into their country. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] In his opinion the whole system of Protectorates in Africa was madness, but if we were to embark in mad schemes, let us at all events have some method in our madness. Before we set to work to construct railways, we ought to weigh the advantages and the disadvantages that would result from their being made. The scope of his Amendment was confined to the assertion that at the present moment we had not sufficient data on which to form a judgment of the advantages that would result from the construction of the line. Had hon. Members ever heard of business men setting about the construction of a railroad in the vague way the Government had adopted, without having any estimate of the cost or any survey of the territory through which it was to pass? In his view his Amendment was a throrough business one. He should wish to ask whether the labour employed in the construction of the line was to be African labour.

*Mr. CURZON: Yes, if we can get it.

Mr. LABOUCHERE said that in that case we were going to avail ourselves of slave labour. We might make what conditions we chose in the arrangements with the masters, but the men employed to do the work would be slaves, who would be brought down to the coast by the Arab traders. During the years that the line would take to construct, the railway would be a perfect hotbed of slavery. In conclusion, he begged to move the Amendment of which he had given notice. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) said that in seconding the Amendment of the hon. Member for Northampton, he should wish to make two or three observations in connection with the general subject. On the last occasion when the question of the construction of this railway was before the House the hon. Member for Westminster had given as one of the reasons in favour of its construction that it would eventually run along the backbone of Africa, and would afford an unbroken communication between the north and south of that continent. He rather doubted whether all the hon. Members in that House had fully considered the problem of the future of Africa and the bearing it would have upon this railway. The policy of British communication by railway from Egypt to British South Africa had gone by the board long ago, and it was one that we could no longer hope to see carried out. Such a policy was an intelligible and a real policy which was well worthy of examination and of thought, but it had now entirely passed out of the region of practical politics. It was true that we had entered into an arrangement with the Congo State to give us a right of way through their territories in consideration of our leasing other territories to them, but one-half of that agreement had been torn up by Germany and the other half by France. It might, of course, be said that in time of peace we should have no opportunity of acquiring the right of way in question, but that we might obtain it as the result of war. But were we to commence the construction of this line in the hope of being able to complete it after the termination of the next great war in which we might be engaged? He thought that in attempting to open a railway communication from the north to the south of Africa we were engaging in a wild goose chase, and therefore he should second the Amendment. ["Hear!"]

*The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. George Curzon, Lancashire, Southport): The hon. Member for Northampton commenced his remarks by a criticism of the circumstances under which we found ourselves in Uganda. Those remarks, it seemed to me, might have been more appropriately addressed to gentlemen sitting on his own side of the House. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. LABOUCHERE: I addressed them to both sides.

*Mr. CURZON: Anyhow, they are not applicable to us. Our position in Uganda is a responsibility which we have inherited, and voluntarily inherited, from our predecessors, and we are now merely carrying to their logical conclusion the steps for the initiation of which they were responsible. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Member then indulged in those *a priori* objections, which he so frequently airs in this House, against any extension of British influence or expansion of the British race. That is one of the special idiosyncrasies of the hon. Member which is quite impervious to argument, and which makes him one of the most perverse, but, I am free to admit, one of the most charming of men. [*Laughter.*] The hon. Gentleman has got a most extraordinary conception of the character of the country through which the railway is to run. It is scarcely conceivable that he has ever read even the most elementary work about the nature of the country.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: Yes, several.

*Mr. CURZON: Then the hon. Gentleman must have an imperfect recollection of what he has read. He described the country as a desert from the coast up to the interior, and then a jungle, and he asked how any European colonist could ever go or want to go into such a country. I remember a story that is told in history. When Julius Cæsar landed in this country his Roman patricians, who had never seen anything of this country before, said :—

> "What an extremely undesirable place to live in! The climate is not one that will suit us; there are parts of the country which are a desert, and other parts which are a jungle."

[*Laughter.*] But in that desert and in that jungle the Roman patricians continued to live and to leave marks of their civilisation and government which endure to this day.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Where are they now? [*Laughter.*]

*MR. CURZON: What are the facts in regard to Uganda? You have a coast fringe which is to some extent unhealthy; then you have a sterile belt some 200 miles across; and then you come to a high, well-watered, fertile country. So far from its being a part of the world in which British colonists could not live, I am informed that British colonists are already arriving there, and that they are starting plantations of coffee. So far from its being the jungle my hon. Friend described, would he be surprised to learn that there is there a cool air, that you wear there the clothing we wear here in the autumn, and that in the winter time you almost invariably require fires at night? The hon. Gentleman once again attributed the lamentable deaths of Sir Gerald Portal and his brother to the effects of the climate of Uganda. Sir Gerald Portal died from an illness contracted in this country, and his brother died from an illness contracted far beyond Uganda. Indeed, gentlemen who have recently been through the country assure me that it is a very healthy part of the world. The next point of the hon. Member was that there can never be any commerce there, and that nothing but ivory ever comes from that part of Africa. That view is not shared by people who have been there. They assure me that there is every chance of cotton, indiarubber, cereals, and coffee being cultivated there. But the question of the advantage of the railway does not solely turn upon the amount of produce likely to be exported from the country or the number of passengers who are likely to take tickets upon the line. The Chancellor of the Exchequer mentioned the other day a point that ought not to be lost sight of. Being in Uganda, as we are, we are compelled to be continually sending up stores and supplies over a considerable extent of country from the sea to the interior. At the present moment all those stores have to be carried on the backs of native porters, which costs us £40,000 a year, but when the railway is in working order it will only cost us £6,000, which will be a saving of £34,000 a year. At present there are only two small steel boats on the lakes—one on the Victoria lake and one on the Albert lake. An order for a steamer for the Victoria lake was very properly given by the late Government. This steamer could only be taken up in pieces and sections on the backs of men. The cost of the transport of that steamer to the lake will be, if it ever gets there, £12,000. Many of these pieces of machinery have been thrown away on the journey, and it is doubtful whether we can ever get the steamer complete. If the railway were made the transport would only cost £1,100. Therefore the saving on Government transport to the lakes will be very considerable when the railway is completed. I go on to the next point of the hon. Gentleman. He seems to have got, I will not say his facts, but his substitutes for facts, wrapt in a jumble of the most impossible and abnormal character. [*Laughter.*] He asked why the contracts for the rails had been given to a Cardiff firm and not to a Barrow firm. The reason why the contract was given to the Cardiff firm and not to the Barrow firm was that the tender of the Barrow company for shipment at Barrow was £4 13s. 6d. per ton; the tender for shipment at London was £5 1s.; the tender of the Cardiff company for shipment at Cardiff was £4 14s. 9d., and we were obliged to ship at Cardiff because we were getting our coals at Cardiff. His next contention was about the sleepers. He was surprised that we should be getting the sleepers from this country. He also talked about some infringement of a contract and of some compensation having to be paid. There is no truth at all in the latter statements; and as regards the sleepers, we were obliged to get them from England because there is no wood in the country of the character that is required for sleepers. We also required creosoted fir sleepers, because steel sleepers would have been liable to be corroded by the saline properties of the air near the coast. The next point my hon. Friend made, and perhaps it was the most extraordinary of all, was that this railway is actually going to turn the parts of Africa through which it is to run into hotbeds of slavery. Well, upon my word. [*Laughter.*] Up till now the argument which has commended the railway to hon. Gentlemen opposite has been that it would be one of the surest preventives of traffic in slaves, and that it would staunch the supply at its source. I can assure the hon. Gentleman anyway that there will be no slave labour employed on the line, and that his apprehensions in that respect are ill-founded. ["Hear, hear!"] I pass to the hon. Gentleman's next point. Throughout his speech he described this railway as if it were a happy-go-lucky affair which the Government had taken in hand, with no clear idea of where it was going to, what route was going to be adopted, and without the estimates and surveys that ought to have been made. What is the fact? In 1892 Major MacDonnell executed a survey of which a Report was laid before this House. It was a reconnaissance survey. It was executed with unusual care; it confirmed the independent studies made by engineers of the highest character beforehand; and it has been confirmed by the observations of those who have been there since. But it was not in the nature of things a detailed survey. I have sometimes wondered why in the interval between 1893 and 1895, when we started the railway, the late Government did not proceed to the execution of the detailed survey that was required before the railway could be commenced. My impression is that they were engaged in making up their minds whether they should remain in Uganda or scuttle out of it. ["Hear, hear!"] A valuable opportunity was then lost, and we are now carrying out a work which could have been more advantageously initiated by them. The process that is followed is this. A party goes ahead upon the trace of Major MacDonnell; then comes a party laying temporary lines, and then a working party laying the rails in their final position. Hon. Members can understand that in these circumstances a margin is wanted over and above the original estimate of Major MacDonnell. But the Government are not departing from Major MacDonnell's observations, nor are they deviating substantially from his figures. There is one other point in regard to which the Government was challenged, and that is as to the reasons for which we have adopted what is known as the Departmental system of construction. The hon. Member talked about this railway as being managed by the Foreign Office, whose officials he regarded as perfectly incapable of constructing such a work. That may be the case under ordinary circumstances, but this railway is being made by a Committee of experts sitting at the Foreign Office. I will give the House the names of the Committee. In the first place, the managing director is Mr. O'Callaghan, a man whose whole life has been spent in railway work in India. The consulting engineer is Sir Alexander Rendel, who is consulting engineer to the India Office, and the other members of the Committee are Sir Montagu Ommanney, Crown Agent for the Colonies, who is familiar with similar business, and Sir John Kirk, whose experience in that part of Africa is exceptionally great. This Committee sits at the Foreign Office, but can scarcely be legitimately described as a Foreign Office Committee. It embodies the most expert and authoritative opinion we can obtain, and to this Committee come week after week the accounts sent home by our local engineers on the spot. Whatever system of construction you apply, whether you build by departmental system or by contract, in the last resort a great deal must depend on the vigilance, the judgment, and the experience of the local engineers, and in the person of Mr. Whitehouse, who has great experience of railways in Africa, in India, and other tropical countries, we have a most excellent man. No firm of contractors and no company working this railway could possibly have applied to the supervision and control of the work done by their engineers on the spot the authoritative supervision which is applied by this expert Committee sitting at the Foreign Office. This method of construction is one with which we are very familiar. The hon. Member spoke of it as an experiment made for the first time. That is not so. The Departmental system in this case is only Foreign Office in so far as the expert Committee sit at the Foreign Office. This Departmental system is one under which the majority of our railways in India and at the Cape have been constructed, and under which we have made our railways in Trinidad, in Ceylon, in Western Australia, and other Colonies. Experience shows us that it is on the whole a smoother and more economical method, and more particularly will it be so in this part of Africa, for the reason that in the first place, we have the advantage, working through Government agency, of the assistance of the Indian Government. For instance, we have got the assistance of 3,000 coolies to start the works with. The Indian Government would never have let those coolies go to work under a company or a contractor. We can get any amount of rolling stock from India ; we have, too, the advantage of obtaining engineers and surveyors already trained in somewhat analogous work and with Indian experience. No firm of contractors or company could have commanded these advantages. ["Hear, hear !"] Hon. Members opposite are never tired of telling us that the construction of this railway is going to be threatened and retarded by the raids of the Masai tribes. But if troubles arise, or are likely to arise, surely you will be much more likely to compose them and to get on well with the local chiefs and tribesmen if you have your own officers in charge. ["Hear, hear !"] If you employ contractors what guarantee have you that they will engage men who are experienced in the ways of managing native tribes and in dealing with them dexterously ? That reason, if there were no other, would be strong enough to impose on the Government the duty of constructing the railway. I hope I have fairly met the various points raised by the hon. Member, but I would ask the House, in giving their vote on the matter, to consider this—that we have taken over this country for better or for worse. We may have been right or we may have been wrong, but that question is not now before the House. It was decided after due consideration, and, I am sure, with a full sense of responsibility, by the late Government, and it has been accepted by the present Government. The whole policy of the British Protectorate in Uganda has been explained, criticised, vindicated, and accepted more than once by overwhelming votes of this House. ["Hear, hear !"] If that be the accepted policy of the country, the necessary corollary of the dominion we have established is that we should have railway communication between the interior and the seaboard. ["Hear, hear !"] That is the whole question in a nutshell. If you do not establish that communication with the Victoria Nyanza, Germany will do so. It is in pursuit of our responsibilities, and of the obligations we have inherited from our predecessors, that we are constructing this railway, and I believe the time will arrive when hon. Gentlemen who make these speeches now will look back with bewildered surprise on the utterances with which they have favoured the House, and will wonder how it was that they "raged so furiously together and imagined such vain things." [*Laughter and cheers.*]

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.) : I should not have thought it necessary to offer any observations to the House on this matter if the right hon. Gentleman had not made an attack on his predecessors. I agree with my hon. Friend the Member for Northampton that the right hon. Gentleman is one of the most amiable of men, but he is, I think, in the conduct of his department in this House, sometimes unnecessarily aggressive. [*Laughter.*] It was quite unnecessary, for the purpose of this Bill, that the right hon. Gentleman should have indulged either in an attack on the late Government or in those references to Germany which he is so constantly making, and which, coming from the Foreign Office, are singularly impolitic. ["Hear, hear !"]

*MR. CURZON : I cannot allow that interpretation to pass. What I said was that one of the main grounds for the construction of a railway to Victoria Nyanza was that if we did not make it Germany would. ["Hear, hear !"]

There was nothing aggressive in that. ["Hear, hear!"] I was speaking of what is the avowed intention of Germany. The Germans have a perfect right to make the railway through their territory; and our policy should be, and has been, to anticipate them. [*Cheers.*]

SIR W. HARCOURT: That is precisely the sort of remark that abroad causes great irritation, and which, I think, should be avoided. It was perfectly unnecessary, and has nothing to do with the argument. It is a remark *in invidiam*, and it introduces into the discussion a prejudice which is altogether unnecessary. I do not see why the right hon. Gentleman should have made any reference to Germany at all. ["Hear, hear!"] With regard to the late Government, the position in which they were placed was a very simple one. I have never altered my opinion that going to Uganda originally was an unwise step—["Hear, hear!"]—and I do not think the case has been improved by the right hon. Gentleman's illustration of the Roman invasion of this country. Julius Cæsar came here, but he went back almost as soon as he came. It was not a permanent occupation, and though the Romans came here and spent a great deal of money with the idea that they were going to get a good return by the pearls they obtained, they got really very little out of the country, and ultimately evacuated it, having got very little profit for the money they had laid out. That illustration does not help the Uganda railway. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] There is an illustration much nearer home in the Congo State. In that State there are means of communication that do not exist in respect to Uganda, and if you consult the parties who are interested in the profits and advantages derived from the Congo, I do not think they will be found to be very considerable. The right hon. Gentleman has thrown some new light on the climate of the Equator. It is apparently necessary there to have an extra great coat, and I suppose the coals being shipped at Cardiff are intended to warm the people at the Equator. [*Laughter.*] That, however, is an expensive operation under the circumstances. [*Laughter.*] The position of the late Government with regard to Uganda when they came into Office was, as I have said, a very simple one. When they came into Office they found that the East Africa Company was practically insolvent; they had endeavoured to make a settlement in Uganda, and had failed to do so, and had given notice that they were going to abandon the country. The policy of Lord Salisbury was to accept the evacuation of Uganda by the company, but he made no provision whatever for what was to succeed. That was the situation we found when we came into Office. We had to consider what was to be done. There were settlements in Uganda; there were British subjects there involved in the enterprises of the company; and no provision was made as to what was to be done on the retirement of the company; and, under the circumstances, the Government felt that they had no alternative but to make the provision in regard to Uganda that was made in 1892. The late Government agreed—and I believe the hon. Member for Northampton agreed—that a railway was a necessity, but we were of opinion that it must be what is called a light railway. Having regard to the condition of things in Uganda and to the uncertainty of what was to go there and what was to come from there, the notion of laying down a great and expensive line was never entertained by anyone in the world. The Committee of 1895, which was composed of the same gentlemen who reported in 1896, recommended the adoption of a reduced scheme, and that scheme was to cost exactly half the money which it is now proposed to expend. They recommended an expenditure of £1,755,000, but the present estimate is double that sum. I do not see that the House can be asked to assent to such a proposal. Why should they? I confess I am a little sceptical as to the accuracy of the estimate of the traffic on a line which is to have a train once a week upon it, and I am likely to remain so until the line has been at work some time. The right hon. Gentleman, with his usual confidence, assures us of the success of the line. I remember that a few months ago Mr. Rhodes told me he was absolutely certain there never could be any native difficulty, either in Matabeleland or Mashonaland. It only shows how very well-informed persons may be mistaken. I require some more solid assurance than that of the right hon. Gentleman that in the settlement of Africa no native difficulties are possible or even probable. I would advise the right hon. Gentleman not to be too confident in a matter of this kind. I think it was not wise to have doubled the estimated expenditure upon this line, and I confess that, as between the two reports signed by the same gentlemen, I prefer the report which was made to us and upon which we stated our intention of embarking upon a railway to Uganda. From our point of view the state of things was one which only justified what may be called a tentative railway—a light railway. Of course, if the passenger and goods traffic developed, you might lay down a heavier railway, make stronger bridges, and multiply your trains. I entirely agree with the hon. Member for Northampton in his depreciation of railway constructing and building by the Foreign Office. The Foreign Office endeavoured to administer Cyprus, and they made such a mess of the matter that we were obliged to take it out of their hands and transfer it to the Colonial Office. I would prefer that this work should be done by the Colonial Office, who have a staff with some knowledge of administration.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The staff the Colonial Office employ for such a purpose is the staff of Crown Agents, and the staff of Crown Agents is doing this very work.

SIR W. HARCOURT: Why don't you put this administrative work in the hands of the Colonial Office, which is an administrative Office? The Foreign Office is not an administrative Office, and whenever they have attempted matters of administration we have always found that they have not been successful. I must express my sympathy with the Chancellor of the Exchequer at being called upon to pay for a railway which is to be made by the Foreign Office and upon estimates upon which they can place no reliance. In the last report it is distinctly stated that:—

> "it became evident to the Committee, on further examination, that detailed surveys might modify the conclusions of the able officers who had surveyed the route in 1892. The reports of the chief engineer have shown that the ascent from the coast to the tableland will be more expensive than was anticipated. Thence to the broken country of the Mau range the estimates are thought to be approximately correct, though the consideration of recent reports on the meteorological and climatic conditions raises doubts regarding the sufficiency of bridging allowed for. As regards the difficult country after the Mau range is reached, the Committee recognise that, in the absence of detailed surveys, there must be an element of uncertainty. They consider that, with the information at present at their disposal, it would be impossible to say that Major Macdonnell's estimate of initial cost may not be exceeded."

That was the condition of things upon which you are entering upon this expenditure. I do not regard that as a very satisfactory state of things. You are going to make a railway through the Foreign Office upon estimates you admit are absolutely uncertain. The Chancellor of the Exchequer must admit from a financial point of view anything more unsatisfactory than to set to work to make a railway into the centre of Africa without estimate or detailed survey it is difficult to conceive.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS said the hon. Gentleman the Member for Northampton, as was his wont, could not make a speech on this subject without attacking the East Africa Company, and the right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken cast something of a reflection upon it. He could not, in justice to the gentlemen with whom he had worked on that company and who he had aways maintained were animated by the highest motives, let the attack pass without saying a word in answer.

SIR W. HARCOURT: I made no reflection on the company. I spoke of their misfortunes.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: I think he said they were practically bankrupt.

SIR W. HARCOURT: That is their misfortune. [*Laughter.*]

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS said he would proceed in a moment to show how that arose. The hon. Member for Northampton said the company went into Uganda, found it a bad speculation and retired, and he gathered from the right hon. Gentleman's remarks that he wished the House to infer that the company, having spent so much money in going into Uganda, were not able to remain there, but were bankrupt. He wished to remind the House that they did not go into the country as a speculation or with any object of their own to serve. They were forced to go there by the urgent solicitation of the king and people; they were urged to go by public opinion; they went with the sanction and encouragement of the Government of this country; and when they got there they secured a condition of peace and contentment among the rival factions. In going to Uganda, as throughout the whole career of the Company, they had undertaken national obligations as apart from commercial obligations; and when they asked the Government to recognise this fact and to give them some encouragement and support in their work, it refused. He would remind the right hon. Gentleman how his Government treated the Company with reference to this very railway. He proposed to buy them out for 10s. in the pound, and he knew that it was then determined to build this railway. He knew that the building of the railway would have enabled them to get unlimited capital, but he kept the intention secret, and, having completed the purchase on terms which lost the Company half its capital, he came down the next day and announced the intention of building the railway. It seemed to him that this showed the commercial sharpness, added to the political morality, of an old furniture dealer. [*Laughter.*] With regard to the remarks of the Member for the Forest of Dean, he always listened to the right hon. Baronet with interest, knowing the great knowledge and industry which he brought to bear on these subjects. On this occasion he observed one omission in his speech, his usual avowal of his own Imperialism. He had never heard the right hon. Baronet speak on subjects of this kind without laying claim to being something of an Imperialist, and he had never known an Imperial project brought before this House without the right hon. Baronet opposing it. ["Hear, hear!"] The right hon. Baronet was like the signpost to which Charles Dickens was compared, which pointed out to others the way to go, and never went it. [*Laughter.*[ The right hon. Baronet shrinks from his own ideal. [Sir C. DILKE: "The increase of the Navy."] He was not going into that. The right hon. Baronet confined his speech to an attack on a forecast which he (the speaker) had put forward in reference to the railway on a former occasion, of a backbone of communication running from north to south through Africa, and this Uganda railway forming a link between the centre of that backbone and the finest harbour on the east coast. He had never said that the line of communication must necessarily be a line of railway —it might be a mixed water and rail communication—or that it must be altogether in the hands of this country. England held a predominant position in South Africa, and when England had purchased Delagoa Bay, as they would purchase it—[*a laugh*]—and when England was permanently established in Egypt—[*a laugh*]—he saw the right hon. Gentleman smile, but he had never been able to foresee the time when the withdrawal of England from Egypt would not mean the subsidence of that country back into the condition from which the English occupation had raised her. ["Hear, hear!"]

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot go into a discussion on the Egyptian question.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS bowed to the ruling of Mr. Speaker. He was led off by the smile of the right hon. Gentleman. [*A laugh.*]

SIR W. HARCOURT: What I smiled at was the appropriation of Delagoa Bay.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: I did not observe the smile on the right hon. gentleman's countenance. If I had, I should have dwelt on it. [*Laughter.*] My gaze was fascinated by the smile on the face of the right hon. Gentleman next to him (Mr. J. Morley). [*Laughter.*] With England holding this predominant position in the north and in the south, it was most inevitable that a line of communication should be established between the two extremes. With regard to the strip of territory referred to by the right hon. Baronet, he very much regretted that the Government did not follow up and confirm the foresight which the Company had shown in the making of their treaty with the Congo State with regard to this intervening territory. It was a great loss to have given it up, but he did not for a moment believe that this intervening strip would prevent the line of communication from being eventually completed. It was absurd to suppose that a few miles of territory, far from the coast, at the farthest end of the German possessions, could stand in the way of a great work of civilisation. Would the right hon. Baronet himself maintain that, supposing such a line was completed from the south to one side of that small strip, and from the north to the other side of it, anything could stand in the way of the line being completed across it? The carrying out of this railway would be not only an enormous benefit to the country and a relief to the people from the horrors of slavery, but it was entirely in consonance with the best traditions of English policy. [" Hear, hear ! "]

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said they were told that if they did not make this railway Germany would, but he did not believe that Germany paid the slightest attention. There was a great uncertainty as to the country, and there was a complete absence of information as to the line the railway would take. There was the question of the bridges, and whether they would be able to withstand the great floods. Ultimately, no doubt, the cost would be six millions rather than three millions. The right hon. Gentleman held out a prospect of tremendous cultivation, but Sir Gerald Portal had said that there was an entire absence of any natural product except ivory, and possibly coffee, in the country. The strategical advantage of a country 800 or 700 miles from the sea was, he thought, quite worthless; it would be 1,200 or 1,400 miles to Khartoum, and then they would have to get to Alexandria. He should have thought it would have been better to disembark their troops at Suakim, or some other central place. There was also the greatest uncertainty as to the revenue. The higher lands over which it was proposed to take the railway were 8,000 feet above the sea, and that part of the route had not been surveyed. He did not say that they were bound to go on with this railway now, although it might be that the Government found themselves tied to what was called a continuity of policy, but he was convinced that the railway would prove enormously difficult to make, and that they would never get a penny out of it.

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 239; Noes, 86.—(Division List, No. 348.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time, and committed for To-morrow.

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## CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Mr. ROBERT ASCROFT (Oldham) had given notice to move the following clause:—

### PROCEEDINGS BEFORE STRIKE OR LOCK-OUT.

(1.) No association or body of employers or workmen (whether registered as trades unions or not) shall, unless they have mutually agreed to some scheme for discussing all disputes and differences before resorting to a strike or lock-out, subsidise or support any members who may lock out their workpeople or any members who may leave their employment on strike, unless and until such time as the respective officials of such associations or bodies shall have met and discussed the matters in difference and reduced into writing the grounds of complaint, demand, or matter in dispute.

(2.) In case the officials of any such association or body shall, on an application of the other, neglect to meet and discuss the matters in difference, then the association or body so neglecting shall be bound by the above restriction, but the other association or body shall be freed from such restriction in respect to subsidising or supporting members as and from the time when the strike or lock-out took place.

He said that the Bill had been greatly altered in the Standing Committee. It was now entirely confined to the voluntary settlement of trade disputes. The object of his clause was to give employers and workpeople an opportunity, before the Board of Trade interfered, to exercise their own initiative and formulate their own scheme. But he should not now press the clause. If the Bill needed Amendment, there would be ample opportunity during the life of the present Parliament.

Mr. ASCROFT moved in the title of the Bill ("A Bill to make better provision for the settlement of trade disputes,") to insert, after the words "provision for the," the words "prevention and."

*Sir C. DILKE said that if the Amendment were agreed to by the Government, he would not oppose it, but he thought the words would seem very objectionable to the working classes, though they had no operative force.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. C. T. Ritchie, Croydon) agreed to the objection of the right hon. Bart, but he did not think it necessary to resist the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1,—

### REGISTRATION AND POWERS OF CONCILIATION BOARDS.

(1.) Any board established either before or after the passing of this Act, which is constituted for the purpose of settling disputes between employers and workmen by conciliation or arbitration, or any association or body authorised by an agreement in writing (made between employers and workmen) to deal with such disputes (in this Act referred to as a conciliation board), may apply to the Board of Trade for registration under this Act.

(2.) The application must be accompanied by copies of the constitution, byelaws, and regulations of the conciliation board, with such other information as the Board of Trade may reasonably require.

(3.) The Board of Trade shall keep a register of conciliation boards, and enter therein with respect to each registered board its name and principal office, and such other particulars as the Board of Trade may think expedient.

(4.) Every registered conciliation board shall furnish such returns, reports of its proceedings, and other documents as the Board of Trade may reasonably require.

(5.) The Board of Trade may, on being satisfied that a registered conciliation board has ceased to exist or to act, remove its name from the register.

(5.) Subject to any agreement to the contrary proceedings for conciliation before a registered conciliation board shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the board in that behalf.

Mr. ASCROFT moved in Sub-section (3), after the word "expedient," to insert the words:

> "and any registered conciliation board shall be entitled to have its name removed from the register on sending to the Board of Trade a written application to that effect."

He said that it would remove many difficulties in the way of registration if it were clearly understood that withdrawal from the register could be effected by simple notice.

Mr. RITCHIE thought the Amendment unnecessary. It was obvious that the Board of Trade would not keep on the register any Conciliation Board which desired to withdraw its name. But if the House thought it was desirable to insert the words to make it perfectly clear that the Bill was purely voluntary, the Government would not object.

Mr. J. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that the words were quite unnecessary, but they were equally harmless.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2,—

### POWERS OF BOARD OF TRADE AS TO TRADE DISPUTES.

(1.) Where a difference exists or is apprehended between an employer, or any class of employers, and workmen, or betweeen different classes of workmen, the Board of Trade may, if they think fit, exercise all or any of the following powers, namely:—

(*a*) Inquire into the causes and circumstances of the difference;

(*b*) take steps as to the Board may seem expedient for the purpose of enabling the parties to the difference to meet together, by themselves or representatives, under the presidency of a chairman mutually agreed upon or nominated by the Board of Trade or by some other person or body, with a view to the amicable settlement of the difference;

(*c*) on the application of employers or workmen interested, and after taking into consideration the existence and adequacy of means available for conciliation in the district or trade and the circumstances of the case, appoint a person or persons to act as conciliator or as a board of conciliation;

(*d*) on the application of both parties to the difference, appoint an arbitrator.

(2.) If any person is so appointed to act as conciliator, he shall inquire into the causes and circumstances of the difference by communication with the parties, and otherwise shall endeavour to bring about a settlement of the difference, and shall report his proceedings to the Board of Trade.

(3.) If a settlement of the difference is effected either by conciliation or by arbitration, a memorandum of the terms thereof shall be drawn up and signed by the parties or their representatives, and a copy thereof shall be delivered to and kept by the Board of Trade.

MR. ASCROFT moved in Sub-section (1), after the words "different classes of workmen," to insert the words "or between different classes of employers." He said that the omission of the words of the Amendment would be fatal to the success of the Bill. It must be popular and command the sympathy and goodwill of the working classes to be a success, and that condition would not be fulfilled if there were any suspicion in the minds of the workpeople that they were treated one way in their disputes, while their employers were to be treated in a different way.

MR. RITCHIE wished that the hon. Member had given a single case in which he thought the Amendment could be of any service. If any dispute between different classes of employers threatened a lock-out or strike, then they would come under the Bill, without the Amendment; and if the disputes did not affect the workpeople, there would be no ground for interference. How could the Board of Trade intervene in a dispute between employers as to the price of any particular goods sold by them? The Amendment was quite unnecessary, and would create false impressions as to the operation of the Bill.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham) submitted that there were only two courses open to the President of the Board of Trade—either to accept the Amendment or to withdraw the words applying the Bill to disputes between "different classes of workmen," and so place both employers and workmen on a common level. If this Bill was to be useful at all, it would be in its attracting the minds of the working classes to it, and, therefore, it was important to have regard to the sentiment of the working classes in the matter

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Stockport) did not see any necessity for the Amendment. It was said that if the working classes got it into their heads that a different measure was meted out to them than to the employers, some terrible results would ensue, but from his experience of the working classes he did not believe any such unwise notion was likely to take possession of them. He did not know and had never known a case of any difference between different classes of employers which would be covered by the proposed words.

MR. BRYCE listened with great respect to anything which fell from his hon. Friend the Member for Durham, but they were entirely in the dark as to the kind of case which was contemplated; and it would be rather rash if they were to extend the jurisdiction of the Board of Trade to a class of cases of which they had no knowledge, and as to which they had no reason to think the action of the Board of Trade would be beneficial.

MR. CHARLES FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) could not see why, if the President of the Board of Trade was not prepared to accept the Amendment, he should insist upon retaining the words "or between different classes of workmen." Now, employers sometimes had differences between themselves with regard to work which might, and sometimes did lead to the stoppage of a certain part of work in process of execution. That was not a strike, neither was it a lock-out, and yet, inasmuch as it involved loss of time to the workman, the hardship to him was the same. As the object of the promoters was to prevent, as far as possible, disputes which would lead ultimately either to the injury of the workman on the one hand or the employer on the other, he did not see why they should draw any distinction between them in the Bill.

MR. WOOTTON ISAACSON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said he wanted to see a clause inserted by which men should not go on strike while disputes were being discussed. In the early part of 1894 there was a strike in the South Wales coal trade, and when he went down there he found the men had not the smallest notion why they had gone out on strike.

*MR. SPEAKER said he did not see the relation of the hon. Member's observations to the Amendment, which proposed that the Board of Trade should have power to interfere in cases of dispute between different classes of employers.

MR. G. W. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) could not conceive of any disputes which could arise between different employers which could in any way be settled by such an Amendment. There might be disputes between different employers as to whether they should have a lock-out or not, but these could not come to a head without affecting the workmen, and then the Board of Trade could step in.

MR. A. J. MUNDELLA (Sheffield, Brightside) said that if a dispute between employers were to arise, and as the result of that dispute the workmen ceased to be employed, it would at once be a trade dispute, and the Board of Trade would have power to interfere. He appealed to his hon. Friend not to press the Amendment.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK (London University), from his experience on the Conciliation Board of the London Chamber of Commerce, said they had had several cases of disputes between traders, but he had never heard of a case between employers which would be affected by the Amendment. Practically the words would be inoperative.

MR. J. W. LOGAN (Leicester, Harborough) hoped the hon. Member would press the Amendment to a division, because the words could do no harm, and they would show the public outside that in legislating the House of Commons was willing to listen to the voice of the working men in the House.

*SIR C. DILKE said he disliked the Bill so much that he had not intended to take any part in the controversy at all, but the Debate showed the weakness of the Bill. He believed the Bill gave no power to the Board of Trade to interfere in the circumstances mentioned by the right hon. Member for the Brightside Division.

MR. J. COLVILLE (Lanark, N.E.) supported the Amendment. He believed that there were cases of disputes which very seriously affected the interests of employers and their workpeople which would be dealt with by the Amendment.

MR. FORTESCUE FLANNERY (York., Shipley) pointed out that there was a class of workmen who employed subordinate workmen, like the platers in a shipyard. There was no Definition Clause in the Bill, and it might easily happen that a difficulty would arise as to who was the employer and who was the workman. There was a class of persons engaged who were workmen in large factories and who at the same time employed workmen to work under them. If this Amendment was inserted it would cover such cases. He recalled a case in which workmen who employed other workmen had a dispute with another class as to the manner of employing the labourers. If he read the Bill correctly it would fail to reach such cases and to distinguish between the disputes of that character, because there was no Definition Clause to bring such persons under the name of employers. If, however, the Amendment were accepted, there would then be no doubt as to their position. He had listened to the discussion and he had not heard a reason given why the Amendment, if accepted, would cause harm. [*Cheers.*] If it had the effect claimed for it of causing workmen to undertake methods of conciliation instead of a strike, surely it would be worth inserting in the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) said that if he thought the particular class of workmen referred to did not come within the scope of the Bill then some ground might exist for a Definition Clause, or at least for the insertion of words to make the clause plain; but his impression was that there was no doubt about the subject. When the discussion took place in the Grand Committee he was impressed with the objections taken to the insertion of these words, and if the words were necessary to deal, for example, with the case of a sub-contractor and his workmen, he should agree to them, but he thought that the case was already covered by the Bill. The insertion of the Amendment would open the door to cases of disputes as to wages, to disputes about competition rates, and arrangements as to particular markets having to be inquired into by the Board of Trade. He thought that the words proposed were too wide, and he trusted that the House would not widen the scope of the section by inserting words which would introduce a class of disputes never intended to be dealt with by the Bill.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 123; Noes, 203.—(Division List, No. 349.)

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT moved, after Sub-section (3) to insert the following Sub-section:—

> "(4.) The Arbitration Act 1889, shall not apply to the settlement by arbitration of any difference or dispute to which this Act applies, but any such arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with such of the provisions of the said Act, or such of the regulations of any conciliation board, or under such other rules or regulations, as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties to the difference or dispute."

He said that he was one of those who regretted that the Government felt it right to abandon Clause 2 in the Standing Committee, and the provisions with regard to arbitration in the Schedules. They had at first intended to ask the Government to restore the clause and to deal in the Bill with arbitration as well as with conciliation. At the same time they recognised that conciliation was the primary and prior object of the Bill, and that they would not be well advised in pressing Amendments to which exception might be taken, though voluntary and not compulsory arbitration was the corollary of conciliation, and if conciliation failed to effect an amicable settlement the parties might well have facilities for arbitration by mutual agreement and the Bill thus be jeopardised. But he thought that the abandonment of Clause 2 had occasioned a difficulty not contemplated by the Board of Trade. That clause modified the provisions of the Arbitration Act of 1889, as made applicable to this Bill, and the Debates that had taken place had seemed to show that it was generally thought undesirable that so mercantile and unsuitable an Act as that passed in connection with arbitration in 1889 should be applied to labour disputes. If the Bill before them were passed without his Amendment, the Act of 1889 would apply to all arbitrations. A submission to arbitration, an agreement to refer, would become irrevocable, and when an award was made it might be enforced by order of a Judge, and finally by imprisonment. It would become possible to administer oaths, penalties for perjury might be incurred, and subpœnas might be issued. It would also be possible to insist on the disclosure of employers' books showing their profits, and of the private documents of Trade Unions. The application of these provisions in the cases contemplated by the Bill was generally felt not to be desirable. The first object of his Amendment then, was to exclude the operation of the Act of 1889, and the second object was to suggest to the parties how they might proceed in cases of arbitration. It permitted them to make their own code by selection from the Act, to adopt the rules of any Conciliation Board, or to make regulations for themselves. The purpose was to encourage arbitration, and to suggest the best modes of procedure, so as to prevent strikes and lock-outs, and facilitate their amicable settlement by voluntary agreements to arbitrate. It had been suggested that the parties might themselves by their agreement, exclude the operation of the Act of 1889. That was, of course, true, but he thought that the parties, from one cause or another, would be unlikely to do so, and that it was best to exclude the Act, unless expressly adopted, as being unsuitable to such proceedings. The President of the Board of Trade had met his proposal in a very conciliatory spirit, and he hoped that his Amendment would now have the right hon. Gentleman's support, as it had that of the London Conciliation Board.

*The Attorney General.*

MR. RITCHIE said that the Government, like his hon. Friend, considered that some of the provisions of the Act of 1889 were inapplicable to disputes such as those with which this Bill purported to deal. The conclusion he had come to was that by far the best course to adopt would be not to lay down any code at all by which the parties to arbitration should be bound, but to leave the matter, as other matters were left in the Bill, to the parties to arrange themselves. The Government had, therefore, thought it wise to exclude Clause 2 of the original Bill from the consideration of the Committee, but, recognising that in many cases conciliation led to arbitration, they thought it desirable to make some provision for the appointment of an arbitrator who would only be appointed on the application of both parties. If an arbitrator were appointed, in any case the Act of 1889 would apply with all its pains and penalties in the absence of an Amendment like that proposed by his hon. Friend. That would discourage arbitration under this Bill, and therefore he thought it desirable to exclude the operation of the Act of 1889, which was never intended to be applied to disputes of the kind which they were now dealing with, and to leave the parties to an arbitration free to draw up their own code.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3,—

POWER FOR BOARD OF TRADE TO AID IN ESTABLISHMENT OF CONCILIATION BOARDS.

If it appears to the Board of Trade that in any district or trade adequate means do not exist for having disputes submitted to a conciliation board for the district or trade, they may appoint any person or persons to inquire into the conditions of the district or trade, and to confer with employers and employed, and, if they think fit, with any local authority or body, as to the expediency of establishing a conciliation board for the district or trade.

MR. ASCROFT moved to leave out the word "they" and to insert instead thereof the words "the Board of Trade."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. RITCHIE moved "That the Bill be read the Third time."

*SIR C. DILKE said that if no opposition was shown to the Motion it was because time was precious and the end of the Session was approaching. For his part he believed the Bill would do no good, and might even be productive of harm in some cases.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said he had heard very significant rumours as to the possibility of the provisions for arbitration which had been deleted in Committee being reinstated in the Bill in another place. He hoped the Government would resist any such attempt on the part of the House of Lords.

MR. RITCHIE said he had not heard any rumour of the sort.

Bill read the Third time, and passed.

## COAL MINES REGULATION ACT (1887) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

As amended by the Standing Committee, considered.

*MR. DAVID THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil) moved the following clause:—

SUBSTITUTION OF CLAUSE FOR SUB-SECTION 1 OF SECTION 47 OF PRINCIPAL ACT.

"For Sub-section 1 of Section 47 of the principal Act shall be substituted the following Sub-section:—'The parties to the arbitration are in this section deemed to be the owner, agent, or manager of the mine on the one hand and a majority of the workmen employed in the mine on the other.'"

He said that the Bill was intended to provide that certain rules should be made to carry out the Report of the Royal Commission. In the event of arbitration taking place in this matter, the workmen would not be parties to it. He contended that in the case of arbitration the workmen ought to be placed in the same position as the employers. Under the present law the workmen had no power to initiate special rules, to object to special rules proposed by the Home Office, or to select an arbitrator, as the employers had. He thought the reason for the Amendment was sufficiently obvious, and he would not detain the House at length upon the subject.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) said he hardly thought the hon. Member would expect him to agree to this Amendment. The parties to arbitration under the principal Act were the Secretary of State on the one side and the employer on the other side, and he did not think they could so alter the rule under the principal Act as to make the parties to the arbitration the owner and the workmen.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham) said he would like to induce the hon. Member to withdraw this Amendment, because it would eliminate from the arbitration the most important party to it. If the Amendment were accepted, the Inspector of Mines would be entirely eliminated from the arbitration courts, and the initiation would fall on the workmen.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 2,—

REPRESENTATION OF WORKMEN ON ARBITRATION.

Where any matter in difference is referred to arbitration under the principal Act, a majority of the workmen employed in the mine to which the arbitration relates may, on giving such security, if any, as may appear to the arbitrators or umpire sufficient to provide for the costs, appoint any person to represent the workmen, or any class of them, on the arbitration, and any person so appointed shall be entitled to attend and take part in the proceedings of the arbitration to such extent and in such manner as the arbitrators or umpire may direct, and be subject to the same liability with respect to costs as if he were a party to the arbitration.

MR. W. ABRAHAM (Rhondda) moved to omit the words—

"on giving such security, if any, as may appear to the arbitrators or umpire sufficient to provide for the costs."

He said that while it was true this clause gave the workmen what they had not had before, he was afraid the offer of representation was so hampered by conditions that the great majority of workmen of the United Kingdom would be prevented from being represented in this Court of Arbitration. It was in this Court of Arbitration that the proposals of the Home Secretary for the safeguarding the lives of miners had to be considered and approved. Whatever was found to be necessary for the safety of miners was not to be dealt with in the House of Commons, but in this Court of Arbitration. This Chamber would be constituted by the Mines Inspector, as representing the Home Office on the one hand and the mine-owners on the other hand, with power to appoint an umpire. It was necessary that the arbitrator should be a mining engineer, or a person acquainted with the working of the mines. Experience showed that the person usually chosen was a mining engineer. Although the principal Act said that the arbitrator was not to be a person interested in the mine, yet that provision was very easily and invariably got over. Rules had to be enacted for a certain mine, and one of the ablest men in the district was selected as arbitrator for the employer. But when the rules were made for that particular mine they were applicable for the whole district, and the gentleman who had been acting as arbitrator was oftentimes very largely interested in the other mines in the district. As a rule, the gentleman acting on the other side was a mining engineer and a friend of the mine owners. It was to this Court that the workmen were now seeking to get representation with heavy incumbrances and conditions and stumblingblocks. It was possible for the umpire to order one of the parties to pay the whole costs of the arbitration proceedings, and one of the conditions to the workmen being admitted to representation was that they must give security for all these costs, and then the gentleman appointed to represent them could only act under the direction of the arbitrator and umpire. For that meagre privilege the workmen's representative had also to give his personal security for the costs, just as if he were a party to the arbitration. He asked the House to kindly remove these obstacles—these unnecessary, unjust obstacles—in the way of workmen sending representatives to this Court. The proposal in the Bill must be modified, or only rich associations could find their way to the Court. It was only fair that the workmen whose lives were so precious should be represented there. It ought to be as easy for the workmen to make their views heard in these Courts as in the House of Commons. He might be told that once the workmen agreed to pay costs. Yes, their own costs—not all the costs of both parties—and they were prepared to do that again. In his opinion, the Home Secretary was taking a very dangerous course indeed in giving great power to modify the existing law; it almost invited a contest between some of the wealthiest institutions in Great Britain. The employers under the first clause might suggest to the Home Secretary certain changes in the existing rules—including even Rules 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is discussing the whole clause, whereas the only question before the House is whether security shall be given for costs by the representatives of the men.

MR. W. ABRAHAM (Rhondda) said he was grateful to Mr. Speaker for his leniency, but he was simply endeavouring to explain the effect of his argument. He thought he had said enough, however, to show that, if the condition in the clause was really to be imposed, it would be inflicting a great hardship on miners, and prevent them attending the arbitration with the same freedom that their representatives attended the proceedings in that House. ["Hear, hear!"]

*SIR GEORGE OSBORNE MORGAN (Denbighshire, E.) said that he had had some experience, when at the Bar, of the consequences of exacting security for costs from poor persons, and in his opinion, to require the representatives of the coal miners to find security for costs would be a denial of justice, and that such a condition would have the effect of making the clause a dead-letter. He knew that there was a strong feeling among his own constituents on the subject, and Mr. Abraham had not spoken at all too strongly, and it would be a considerable concession on the part of the Home Secretary if he accepted the Amendment of the hon. Member for Rhondda. ["Hear, hear!"]

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he would be glad to make a concession on the point if he could see his way, which he was unable to do. He was not altering the constitution of the Court, but giving the workmen a special right, which they had never had before, to appear before the Court. He did not draw the clause. It was drawn by representatives of the employers and employed in concert, and he accepted it, consenting to modify it so as to give the workmen a two-thirds majority. The clause was based on the model of a similar clause in the Factory Act, and in the administration of that Act there had been no complaint of the working of the clause. Nothing more was meant by the clause than that the arbitrator or umpire should have such security as he thought necessary for the costs, "if any." It was merely to guard those interested, and who might have to pay for an expensive arbitration, from its unnecessary prolongation by persons out of whom costs could not be got.

MR. ABEL THOMAS (Carmarthenshire, E.) said he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider what he had said and accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for Rhondda. Perhaps hon. Members might not have had his experience in arbitrations, which might be prolonged for days or even weeks. Under the clause the mine owner proposed special rules; the Home Secretary saw them, and decided whether he could accept them or not. If he did not accept them, then an arbitration took place, in order to see if they could be accepted. The mine owners had a right to propose something; the mine owners were not entitled to do so, but they could appear before the coal owners and the Home Secretary and say what objection they had to a particular rule; but it seemed hard that they could not come into Court without being under a liability to pay, it might be, heavy costs. It was certainly very hard upon the workmen that they should be compelled, in the event of their taking part in an arbitration, to pay every farthing of the costs in certain cases.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Of their own costs only.

MR. ABEL THOMAS said that if the Bill laid that principle down he should be quite satisfied. As he read the Bill, however, it gave the arbitrator power to order the men to give security for the whole costs of the arbitration. He thought that if hon. Members were aware of the hardships to which the workmen were exposed in these matters they would at once accept the Amendment.

SIR W. HARCOURT hoped that the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Attorney General would make it quite clear that the costs to which the workmen were to be liabe were not to be the costs of the arbitration in cases where they only came in in order to protect their own interests, and that the only costs the men should be called upon to pay should be their own costs.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL thought it rather hard upon his right hon. Friend the Home Secretary that, this Bill having been sent down by a Standing Committee, he should be held responsible for any proposal it might contain for imposing costs upon the workmen. His right hon. Friend had intimated to him that, as there might be some doubt as to the meaning of the clause, he was willing to accept a small Amendment which might clear up that doubt. He should therefore propose to amend the clause by inserting in line 5, after the word "costs," the words "occasioned by such representation," the object of which would be to insure that both the security and the liability should be limited to the costs occasioned by the separate representation of the workmen in the arbitration. That was a perfectly just proposal, because, if the workmen chose to come in and take part in the arbitration, they ought to bear the costs occasioned by their taking that action.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Govan) said that surely it would be unfair to compel the workmen to give security for the costs, while the masters were not required to do so. He asked the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary whether he could not consent to omit the word "security" altogether.

*MR. J. B. BALFOUR (Clackmannan and Kinross) said that he thought that there was some danger that the requirements of "security" might be so interpreted as virtually to prohibit the workmen from taking part in the arbitration, notwithstanding they might deem their interests involved in it. He ventured to suggest to the Government whether the matter would not be sufficiently met by allowing a subsequent award of costs to be made, and doing away with the antecedent security.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan, Mid) hoped that the hon. Member for the Rhondda Division would not accept the Amendment suggested by the Attorney General. It would be an exceedingly dangerous Amendment. It would really indicate that the arbitrator ought in all cases to award the costs, against the persons who appeared upon the arbitration, occasioned by their representation. It had already been pointed out that the coal miners themselves were not parties at all to the arbitration, although the Inquiry might, and did, deal with matters in which they were more deeply interested than anybody else. The sub-section of the original Act provided that the parties were deemed to be the owners, agent and manager on the one hand, and the Inspector of Mines on the other. The Bill provided that there might be representation of the workmen on the arbitration, and, if the words of the clause to which his hon. Friend objected were allowed to stand, the workmen would be put in an invidious and grossly unfair position. Although the arbitration dealt with matters in which they were deeply interested, they must be penalised, so to speak, before they were allowed to appear upon it at all, because they must, before such appearance could be made, first give security for costs. There were provisions of this kind known in the High Court where there were contentious cases, but it was only in the most extreme cases that security for costs was demanded. The effect of the section as it stood would be that the colliers would be told that before they could appear upon the arbitration they must enter into a good and valid bond in a sufficient amount to cover any possible costs occasioned by their representation. It was quite possible that they could not give security to this extent unless they went to a guarantee society. The clause, if allowed to stand as it now appeared, would put the workmen in a less favourable position with reference to arbitration than the mine owners.

*The Attorney General.*

MR. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston) observed that it was rather unfortunate that they were discussing the framing of this clause on the Report stage for the first time. It was framed by agreement between workmen and employers, and he would be quite disposed to accept any modification the Attorney General might suggest, for he admitted that it was not altogether aptly worded. He did not suppose that any hon. Member believed that employers wished to put the workmen in a worse position than that to which they were entitled. He understood it was only desired to guard against costs being unnecessarily incurred by workmen urging claims of an unsubstantial kind.

*MR. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouth, N.) considered that if the Attorney General looked at the terms of Clause 2 he would see the necessity of accepting the Amendment of the hon. Member for Rhondda. The power of the workman to attend the arbitration was such power only as was granted by the arbitrator or umpire. He was to take part in the arbitration to such an extent and in such a manner as the arbitrator or umpire should direct. That was to say the workman's representative was a sort of *amicus curiæ*, and there was no occasion for him to incur any liability for costs. If the arbitrator decided that the workman's representative was not there for good cause, he could dismiss him from the proceedings. He was not there in any sense as a party, and there was, therefore a distinct necessity for the Amendment.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) said the Attorney General had based his argument in favour of the clause and the modification he had suggested solely on the reasonableness of such costs being provided for. The Amendment was directed, not against the payment of such costs, but against security being provided beforehand for the payment of such costs. The argument of the Attorney General was not directed to the necessity of providing security in advance. It seemed to him that, instead of insisting on security being provided, the parties represented should give an undertaking to pay the costs if such costs were, in the result, awarded against them.

MR. WOOTTON ISAACSON thought the suggestion of the Attorney General would have satisfied the hon. Member for Rhondda if he had to consider himself alone. For his part, he was very desirous that the workmen should have every facility for appearing at the arbitrations. This was the first time such an opportunity had been given them, and he would suggest that the Home Secretary should limit the amount of security for costs so that it would come within the means of any colliers who were appointed on the Arbitration Court. He considered that those who voted against the clause would be doing harm to the cause of the colliers.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said he hoped the Government would listen to the representations which had been made from that side of the House. He would remind the House that the workmen had, in the first instance, to combine before they could have a representation, and the majority was not likely to commit themselves to a course of this kind unless they had definitely and deliberately made up their minds that there was some important point which they desired to lay before the arbitrator. The Amendment of the Attorney General did not meet the whole case. The security the workmen would have to provide would be practically unlimited, and they could not expect that a body of poor men would be prepared in any and all circumstances to provide a security so large as the one evidently contemplated by the Bill. In order to meet the objections raised on that side of the House he would suggest that, instead of the words of the Attorney General, the words "of such representation" should be inserted. That would secure that the costs should be absolutely confined to the representation of the workmen.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said the intention of the clause was to follow the procedure in the Factory Act, 1894, in regard to the security for costs. He certainly could not accept the Amendment before the House. They wanted to secure that, if an arbitration was necessary, the application on the part of the workmen should be a *bona fide* one.

MR. ABEL THOMAS reminded the Home Secretary that what he contended for was that the workmen ought to pay their own costs in any event and always, but that was not what they were getting here.

MR. BENJAMIN PICKARD (York, W.R., Normanton) asked the Home Secretary if he meant that, when the workmen appeared on an arbitration, they were to pay simply their own costs, or part of the costs of others connected with the arbitration as well? If an inspector initiated an arbitration, and they were allowed to appear there and ask a few questions, would they be called upon to give security for the costs of that arbitration? They were quite willing to pay their own costs, and they were also quite willing, if they initiated an arbitration, to pay those costs too, if it went against them. But they thought they had no right to be called upon to give security while the colliery proprietor, who was very often represented by a man of straw, was not called upon to give security. If what he had indicated was what the Home Secretary meant, he hoped he would, later on, find words to meet the case in point.

MR. PRITCHARD MORGAN (Merthyr Tydvil) asked the Home Secretary whether he could not in some way limit the costs to which the workmen might be liable—if he was to say that they would be liable for costs not exceeding £10 or £20 for their appearance? They were merely appearing in the capacity of watching the proceedings between the representative of the Home Secretary and the colliery owner. It was only in the event of an inspector being of opinion that the colliery proprietor was not taking sufficient precaution for the protection of the lives and limbs of the men that this occasion would arise at all, and then the men had a perfect right to appear there, because they were more interested in the matter than anyone else. It would be quite as logical to ask the Queen's Proctor to be responsible for the costs of the divorce proceedings because he happened to appear in the Court to watch the differences between the parties. The second clause, it appeared to him, was very badly framed, and was most unjust to the men. It provided, in the first place, that the men should give security for costs, and then said that they should be entitled to appoint someone on their behalf, and that someone was also liable to pay the costs if he was called upon to do so.

MAJOR WYNDHAM-QUIN (Glamorgan, S.) said he sympathised very deeply with the Amendment of his hon. Friend opposite. He could not help thinking that in many cases a great hardship would fall upon the colliers if, through their inability to bear what seemed to be an uncertain expenditure, they should therefore be debarred from coming forward and attending the arbitration. He thought it would be a wise course if the Home Secretary could see his way to accept the suggestion of his hon. Friend the Member for Merthyr, and if an arrangement could be made whereby the workmen's representative should feel himself responsible only for a certain amount of money. It would give him more confidence to come forward, and in many cases, therefore, the right man would be found in his place to represent the colliers.

MR. DAVID THOMAS desired to point out that, under the Act of 1887, the majority of the workmen in any mine had the power of appointing a representative to attend and put questions, and so forth, at a coroner's inquest. They paid no costs there, and yet they might prolong the inquiry to any extent, and put the employers and others to very great expense. He did not say that that constituted a precedent for the present Amendment, but he would suggest that, if the Home Secretary would accept the Amendment, it would be a very small extension indeed of the powers that the workmen had now.

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 150; Noes, 87.—(Division List, No. 350.)

On the return of Mr. SPEAKER, after the usual interval,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that, in accordance with a pledge he gave, he now begged to move, to insert, after the word "costs," the following words, "occasioned by such representation." He understood that this arrangement would meet the views of the workmen, and it was a proposal which he thought ought to be accepted.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS thought it ought to be "extra costs."

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said that this Amendment would leave the door open for the incurring of great expenses by the workmen. There was practically before them an unlimited area of expense. Under these circumstances, bodies of workmen would be deterred from taking before the arbitrators even questions that should come before them. The hon. and learned Gentleman knew better than he did what was the difference between being represented and not being represented. He had often placed his clients in a very different position from what they would have been in if they had not had his aid. The limit now proposed would, as he had said, prevent the workmen from having recourse to those proper means of representation to which they were on every ground justly entitled in a matter which was to them of vital interest. He hoped the Attorney General would see to this. They had as much a right to be represented as the employers. What he asked was that they should be able to make their bargain beforehand with their representatives, so that they would know how much they would have to pay. Then they would know whether they could afford to go into the arbitration or not. He thought that that was a reasonable view to take of the case. He thought they ought not to penalise workmen in the way in which it was proposed to do in these clauses. Having regard to the important interests which were involved, and that this Amendment would cause a great number of workmen to lose privileges which they would otherwise enjoy, he trusted the Attorney General would reconsider the matter.

*Mr. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) said that it was open to be argued that the words were so wide as to involve the whole costs of the arbitration. This would be to place the workmen in a most invidious position. The workmen were comparatively poor, while the employers were rich, and, therefore, if any advantage were to be given, it should be in favour of the workmen rather than the employers.

Mr. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) hoped the Attorney General would give some further information, as the words were so full of doubt. What was the meaning of "occasioned"? If the workmen considered their interests were involved so as to call for arbitration, would all the costs be "occasioned" by their representation? ["Hear, hear!"] No matter how long the case might be delayed, the costs would be "occasioned" by their representation. He thought that the effect of this would be to prevent them going on.

Mr. W. ABRAHAM (Glamorgan, Rhondda) said some words should be inserted to prevent what was apprehended.

*Mr. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said, it should be distinctly known that the arbitration was between the mine owner and the Crown alone, and that the workmen need only be represented if they thought fit. The costs therefore to them would only be the costs caused by such representation. He hoped the Home Secretary would adhere to his Amendment.

Sir W. HARCOURT said they were all agreed on that side of the House as on the other that the Attorney General and the Home Secretary showed every disposition to meet the difficulty. Arbitration was not the best way of dealing with the matter. ["Hear, hear!"] If the matter were decided, as it ought to be decided, by the Home Secretary, the question of costs would not arise. ["Hear, hear!"] Under such a system the mine owners would be heard, the inspectors would be heard, the workmen would be heard; and it would have this further advantage—that the workmen would incur no costs whatever in looking after matters that vitally concerned them. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. PRITCHARD MORGAN moved to add, after the words last inserted in the clause, the words "not exceeding the sum of twenty pounds." Unless some limit were placed to the amount of security for costs which the arbitrator might require the workmen to enter into, it would be possible for an unfriendly arbitrator, by fixing a large sum, to prevent the workmen from appearing in these disputes, in which the safety of their lives and limbs were concerned.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for ENGLAND said that if the Amendment were accepted it would be a direction to the arbitrator that security for costs should be given in all cases. In his opinion it would be wiser, in the interest of the workmen, that it should be left to the discretion of the arbitrator to say in each case, "This is a proper case for the workmen to appear in, and no security need be given," or, "This is not a case for the workmen to appear in, and if they do appear security must be given."

*Mr. McKENNA said the arbitrator would not admit the workmen's representatives unless he thought it was right and proper that they should be present at the hearing of the dispute. Therefore, the question of security for costs would only arise in cases where, in the opinion of the arbitrator, the workmen ought to be allowed to appear; but, unless the amount of security were limited, it might happen that the workmen would be deterred from appearing.

Mr. WOOTTON ISAACSON said that in all *bona fide* cases the arbitrator would be able to say, as the clause stood, that he would not require any security for costs from the workmen. But, in cases where an attempt was made to bring before the Court issues of a frivolous nature, it was right that the arbitrator should have the power to require security for costs.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS thought the Amendment ought to be accepted. If it were refused, it might appear to the workmen that they were being dissuaded from appearing in those arbitrations. But, instead of being dissuaded from appearing, they ought to be persuaded to appear. The object aimed at should be to have the best possible rules for the safety of the lives and limbs of the workmen brought into operation. The workmen had a far larger and more serious interest in the matter than the owners. The owners' interest was of a pecuniary nature; but the workmen risked their lives and limbs every day entering the bowels of the earth to work out the coal. This proposal was not one for the limitation of the costs against the workmen, but merely for the limitation of the security for costs. He himself thought that a £10 limit would be high enough. The hon. Member who had last spoken could not quote a case where the workmen had appeared in these cases vexatiously.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) thought that the practice of arbitrators would be to require in all cases the £20 security for costs. The whole point of both sides would be met if some proviso were inserted to the effect that no security for costs should be required if, in the judgment of the arbitrator, the intervention of the workmen was reasonable.

MR. W. ABRAHAM (Rhondda) said that when the Home Secretary proposed any special rules, the workmen and employers concerned would meet together to consider them. The point on which alone they would disagree would be the most essential point of all —namely, the mode of carrying out the rules. In case of disagreement the men ought to be in the same position as the masters for the purpose of appearing before the Arbitration Court. The employers were required to give no security; and what the workmen asked was that the way should be made easy for them to go before the Court, because, after all, it was their lives that were at stake.

*SIR G. OSBORNE MORGAN thought the Amendment was most reasonable. He had known cases in which, owing to a large sum being required for security for costs, there had been a practical denial of justice. He should like to put the two parties on the same footing.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS thought the Amendment was absolutely necessary. If no limit were imposed, the clause would be absolutely worthless for the workmen in whose interest it was devised.

MR. PICKARD appealed to the Attorney General whether he could not accept the suggestion of his hon. Friend with regard to limiting the costs to £20. Let the Government give them some limiting concession, so that the workmen would not be prevented from entering the Court.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he was perfectly willing to consider the question.

*MR. J. B. BALFOUR suggested that all that was necessary was that something should be required which would be a guarantee of good faith.

MR. ABEL THOMAS was certain his constituents would much prefer that the security should be limited to £20, even if it was made absolute, than that it should be left to the discretion of the arbitrator in the way suggested.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 91; Noes, 171.—(Division List, No. 351.)

MR. SAMUEL EVANS moved to omit the words—

> "to such extent and in such manner as the arbitrators or umpire may direct."

These words, he argued, invited them practically to place a limitation on the appearance of the workmen's representatives in these arbitrations. The Amendment was founded on the contention that there ought not to be any inequality at all between the position of the employers and employed in these arbitrations. The owner, agent, or manager of a mine was allowed to go into the arbitration without any kind of fetter or limitation. These words were entirely unnecessary, and the arbitrators or umpires would be able to judge as to the proper limits within which the workmen's representatives should be kept. In the Act relative to coroners' inquests in the case of accidents in coal mines, the men were at liberty to appoint any person by the ordinary right of the majority of the workmen. The words, he thought, would be mischievous in their operation.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he was sorry these invidious Amendments were being moved to a clause which was not only settled in the Grand Committee, but before it went to the Grand Committee, and had been accepted by himself as an agreed clause. If hon. Gentlemen desired to delay the progress of this Bill—[*cries of* "No!" *and Ministerial cheers*]—he declined to meet their objections. He could not accept the Amendment, the words which were proposed to be omitted being identical with those in the Factory Act, and he hoped the House would support him in resisting the proposal.

Mr. ABEL THOMAS sincerely hoped that this Bill, properly amended, would become law, and he had no intention to obstruct it. He ventured to think that hon. Members on that side of the House who had spoken, and who were interested in mining constituencies, had no other object but to make the Bill a better one than it was. He was convinced that the Home Secretary had had nothing to do with the drawing up of this particular clause, and he exonerated him from any attempt to take advantage of anybody. The miners were allowed to appear on finding security that any costs incurred by their appearance at the arbitration, the Home Secretary's costs, and the owner's costs, should be paid by them—that was the position. These words meant that, in regard to the appearance of the workmen's representatives the arbitrator would have more than the ordinary discretion of an arbitrator or umpire. The clause had not been drafted by lawyers, but by gentlemen who, whilst they knew, no doubt, what the interests of the workmen were, had but little practical knowledge of drafting. These words could have no other meaning except that they gave to the umpire or arbitrator the right to say to the workmen, "You cannot be allowed to discuss this or that matter; it does not concern you at all." At the same time the workmen might have to pay the whole costs of the proceedings. Wishing this to be made a workable Bill, he begged the Home Secretary to reconsider his position.

*Sir G. OSBORNE MORGAN asked what reason there could be for placing employers on a different footing from the employed? These words would leave it in the power of the umpires to shut the door against the workmen, and to say, "We do not intend to hear you at all."

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said that a number of questions might be referred, and that in some of these the workmen might be interested and in others not. It was but fair that the tribunal should be at liberty to say to the workmen, "You can be heard on this point or on that point because you are interested in it, but we cannot allow you to be heard on points in which you have no interest." It should be borne in mind that the workmen were being allowed to go into the arbitration as third parties, which was an unusual course. In this matter the Government were following the analogy of the Factory Acts, which contained provisions which permitted the representatives of the workmen to appear when rules were to be made by the Home Office and the employers, and to be heard upon matters in which the workmen were interested upon terms which were the same as those now proposed. It was thought that under that legislation the workmen's representatives ought not to have a roving commission. He denied that, in a case where a person had a good title to appear before an umpire, the umpire would have power to order him out of Court.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS observed that the Attorney General had said that an umpire would have no power, if these words were omitted, to limit the representatives of the workmen, who might travel into fields entirely foreign to the workmen's interests. But the House had already sanctioned the principle of security, leaving its application entirely in the discretion of the arbitrators, and in these circumstances the arbitrators would have in their hands the most powerful weapon possible. He held that these words were unnecessary and unfair to the workmen.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) pointed out that in the Act regulating coroners' inquests in cases of fatal accidents in coal mines, there were words providing that all appearances and the conduct of such appearances should be subject to the order of the coroner. Those words applied to and controlled all appearances, not only on behalf of the workmen and the relatives of the deceased, but also on behalf of the owners.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham) said that an hon. Member on his side of the House had remarked that this clause had been drafted by gentlemen who knew nothing about drafting. At any rate, they knew something about the working of miners underground, and they understood the interests of the men. If this clause militated against the interests of the men, the representatives of the miners would be the last persons to defend it. But the Amendment had been fully discussed; so had the clause, and the wording had been agreed to. When it was seen, therefore, that the majority of the miners' representatives in the House were agreed as to the formation, construction, and tendency of the clause, he thought it would be compatible with the best interests of the men if they were allowed to offer guidance in this matter, and to be allowed to accept this Bill, not as a full payment of what they considered to be the safety of the miners, but as a large instalment tending in that direction. No man had more regard than he had to the fact that the miners were not so fully represented on the Boards as they ought to be; but he was prepared to acknowledge that there might be matters that came within the arbitration of the Board in which the men had a small interest, and that there were matters in which the arbitrators should have the power to say whether the workmen should take a share in them or not. As it was understood the House should get this Bill through with as little contention as possible, and as the Home Secretary had met their claims largely in the direction of safety, he suggested that the clause might now be allowed to pass. He should not like to see the Bill jeopardised. He was confident that the miners of the country, even with the clause as it stood, would not repudiate it, but, on the contrary, would welcome it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 5,—

AMENDMENT OF GENERAL RULES AS TO LAMPS, INSPECTION, AND TAMPING.

(1.) The inspection before the commencement of work required by Rule 4 (i) contained in Section forty-nine of the principal Act, shall extend to all working places in which work is temporarily stopped within any ventilating district in which the men have to work.

(2.) A safety lamp shall not be used in any mine or part of a mine unless it is the property of, or provided by, the owner of the mine, and no portion of any safety lamp shall be removed by any person from the mine while the lamp is in ordinary use.

(3.) In Rule 12 of the general rules contained in Section forty-nine of the principal Act, for the words "nor shall coal or coal dust be used for tamping" shall be substituted the words "and only clay or other non-inflammable substances shall be used for stemming, and shall be provided by the owner of the mine."

MR. W. ABRAHAM (Rhondda) asked whether the word "or," in Sub-section (2)—("or provided by")—was not a clerical error?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: No; it is not a clerical error.

MR. ABRAHAM (Rhondda) said that his objection to the word "or" was this, that a miner might have to pay for the lamp that the mine owner provided. This was the case at present.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the words "or provided by" did not mean "provided by the owners to the workmen," but that the owners were responsible for providing the lamps.

MR. W. ABRAHAM (Rhondda) said the question was whether the workmen had to pay for the lamps. Owners undertook to provide lamps for the workmen, and then charged each workman twopence per week for the use of the lamp. If the miner was allowed to buy his own lamp he could get a good one for 9s. or 10s., and in the ordinary condition of things it would hold good for eight or nine years. Having regard to safety, however, it was only right that the lamps should be the property of the mine owner. If the miner undertook to provide the lamp he should keep it. The workman had no authority over the lamp, only the privilege of using it; yet he had to pay twopence a week for the use of the lamp. His Amendment was only reasonable, that the mine owner should provide the lamp as long as he remained owner, and pay for it if he kept it in his custody.

Mr. ABEL THOMAS said his object and that of his hon. Friend the Member for Rhondda was the same as that of the Home Secretary. In cases in which he had been professionally interested he had heard inspectors say that in their opinion the lamp ought to be provided by the employer, that those responsible for the safety of the mine might have absolute control over the lamp and prevent the workman taking it home. In a great many mines where the lamps were theirs the men were allowed to take them home. The Home Secretary's object was that the miners should have absolute control over the lamps. How could that be carried out without changing "or" into "and," so that it might run "and the safety lamp shall be the property of and be provided by the owner himself." If the Inspectors of Mines in South Wales and Monmouthshire were consulted—and he had heard them give evidence on oath—they would be on the side of the hon. Member for Rhondda in this matter. So it was of vital importance that the lamp should belong to and be provided by the owner.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that it was not until he saw the notice on the Paper that his attention was called to the word "or," and the proposal of "and" for it. He had not sufficiently considered what the effect of putting the word "and" would be, and he would not say no to it without further consideration.

*Mr. J. WILSON (Falkirk) said that in Scotland the mine owners provided the lamps and kept them entirely under their control, but the men were charged the cost of the lamps. He considered that this system was the best, and should be adopted by the Government.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS thought the owner should not have sole control over the lamp if he was going to charge the workmen for it. The point of his hon. Friend was that if the employer was to have the right to provide the lamps and dictate what lamps should be used, he must provide them at his own expense, and not make the workmen pay.

Mr. PRITCHARD MORGAN suggested that the words "unless it is the property of or is sold by the owner" should be inserted.

Mr. FENWICK said the practice prevailing in the North of England was for the employer to find the lamps, which were his property, and there was practically only one class of safety lamp used throughout the collieries. The employer was, therefore, able to get the best class of safety lamp in existence. The Home Secretary would find that the Reports of the inspectors pointed to the fact that the lamps ought to be the property of the mine owners, and simply let out to the workmen for their use during the day. In the north, miners seemed to be in a most favourable position compared with what they were elsewhere; they not only provided the lamp, but the oil too.

Mr. JOHN WILSON (Durham) said that he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary would see his way to accepting the Amendment of his hon. Friend.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that he had no objection to the Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. W. E. M. TOMLINSON said that he thought that some difficulty might arise if the Amendment were accepted in its present form.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that he was quite willing to accept the Amendment at the present moment, but he must ask for further time to consider the matter, and, if he found it necessary to alter the form of it on a future occasion, he must reserve to himself the liberty of doing so. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 6,—

### PROVISION AS TO EXPLOSIVES.

A Secretary of State on being satisfied that any explosive is or is likely to become dangerous, may, by order, of which notice shall be given in such manner as he may direct, prohibit the use thereof in any mine, or in any class of mines, either absolutely or subject to conditions, and the provisions of the principal Act as to contraventions of general rules shall apply to contraventions of any such prohibitions.

*MR. McKENNA moved, after the word "conditions," to insert the following words :—

"and where it appears to any inspector appointed under the Public Act that further precautions are necessary for the safety of the mine by reason of its being dry and dusty, a Secretary of State may make regulations with regard to the watering or damping of the mine, or any ways or places therein."

He was aware that Clause 1 of the Bill provided for the making of special rules for securing the watering of mines, and he believed that in the majority of cases those rules would be sufficient to insure the safe working of the mines; but, in certain cases, in some parts of the country special rules were regarded with suspicion, and they led to costly arbitration. It was proposed that in such cases the Secretary of State should have power to make fresh rules with regard to the watering of the mine. The Royal Commission presided over by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for the Colonies, had stated that the only known method of avoiding the danger arising from the presence of coal dust in fiery mines was by watering. The matter was too important to be left entirely to the result of an Arbitration on Special Rules. Where further precaution was necessary the Secretary of State should have power to direct the watering of mines. Unless the House did their duty in this matter, preventable accidents would occur, and hundreds of lives might be lost. ["Hear, hear!"]

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that no doubt the Amendment of the hon. Member was of a moderate character upon the face of it, but it involved large changes and considerable consequences. He need scarcely say that he felt considerable satisfaction at the confidence which the Amendment proposed to place in the Home Office. No doubt the right hon. Gentleman opposite had done much to promote that confidence which, certainly, a few years ago was not given to the Department. At all events there were very great differences of opinion as to the best way of dealing with the subject of fiery and dusty mines, while, on the other hand, there was some agreement on the question of dealing with explosives. They had, therefore, not the same case for taking the former class of mines out of the special rules and giving exceptional power to the Secretary of State with reference to them as they had in the matter of explosives. It was for that reason, after the most careful consideration, that he decided, in conformity with the decision adopted by his predecessor last year, to limit his request to asking Parliament to deal only with explosives in the manner suggested in the sixth clause, because he thought it would be possible by arrangement, conferences, and by the best advice he could get, to do a great deal in the direction the hon. Member indicated in his Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"] In principle he did not object to the hon. Member's proposal, though in degree he did, as what he suggested could not be differentiated sufficiently, as could explosives, from the subject of the special rules under Clause 1. That was one of the reasons why he objected to the Amendment, although he could not but be conscious that other objections might be urged to it from many quarters of the House. He could not but feel that the Bill had been treated as one upon which there had been substantial agreement, and that for the sake of insuring its passage those representing one side of the question or the other had refrained from making proposals which they would otherwise have done. Although he admitted that it was not a perfect Bill, it was one which he trusted would do some good, and he earnestly hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press an Amendment which would cause contention or render it more difficult to pass the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] If he objected at the present moment to accepting the Amendment he did so out of no hostility to the principle, nor out of any unwillingness to accept some further responsibility on the part of the Home Office. If the House was willing to intrust greater powers to the Home Office at a future period, he hoped—if he still held his present position—that he and the members of that Department would not be found unwilling to do their best on the subject. ["Hear, hear!"]

SIR W. HARCOURT was sure every interest concerned in this matter would recognise with satisfaction and gratitude the spirit with which the Home Secretary had dealt with this subject. ["Hear, hear!"] He himself had very little to say upon it except what he said in the Grand Committee. He regretted very much that those questions, upon which really the lives of thousands of men depended, should be made to hang upon so unsatisfactory a basis as that of arbitration. There was no one who had any experience whatever of the profession of the law who did not look with horror and dismay on arbitrations. It used to be the practice—he hoped it was not quite so much so now—when an issue was being tried to refer the question to arbitration. What did that mean? It meant delay for months and it meant an addition to the expense. ["Hear, hear!"] What happened was this. Counsel on one side said it was not convenient for him to come next week; counsel on the other side said it was inconvenient for him to come the week after, and the arbitrator wished the matter to be put off for a month. [*Laughter.*] That was the history of arbitration, and it was not a system on which it was satisfactory to leave such questions as these. ["Hear, hear!"] In Clause 1 they had five heads, all of them of the most serious character, affecting the lives of men, and what was prescribed in reference to them was that special rules had to be made by the Home Office on the advice of its inspectors. Then the matter was to be delayed and referred, to whom? To an arbitrator. Why? Was not the Home Secretary himself, with his competent advisers, the best arbitrator they could get in the matter? ["Hear, hear!"] He spoke as a Home Secretary of the remote past, but he knew very well that in his time he used to see at regular periods all the inspectors of mines. He was therefore able to state that he believed the Home Secretary had the very best information at his disposal to enable him to deal with questions of this character, and no arbitrator they could possibly find anywhere else could be as good as the Home Secretary with the materials at his disposal and advice such as he could obtain. ["Hear, hear!"] He was quite sure the right hon. Gentleman opposite concurred in that opinion, and he thought he was only surprised to find in the Grand Committee how universal the opinion was in favour of the Home Secretary having larger powers than were given him under this Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] The jealousy of the Central Department was in this matter entirely absent. ["Hear, hear!"] No arbitrator they could pick up could be half as experienced as the Home Secretary and his advisers, who were constantly conversant with these questions. If it had not been for the circumstances of the agreement under which this Bill was brought forward, he would certainly have taken issue in the Grand Committee upon the whole question of arbitration. He should like, as he said then, to have got rid of arbitration altogether, and to have left the regulations to have been made out by the man he believed to be the most competent authority—namely, the Home Secretary. It was perfectly true that this system of arbitration had been introduced not only into the Bill but into former Bills which had been proposed on this subject; but the right hon. Gentleman opposite took the bold and wise step in Clause 6 of taking power to the Home Secretary, without arbitration, to deal with the question of explosions. There was no doubt now, after the inquiries that had been made, that by far the most fertile and dangerous cause of explosions in many mines was the coal dust, and upon that subject the Commission presided over by the Colonial Secretary expressed the following opinion:—

> "While recommending that every effort should be made to prevent undue accumulations of dust, it appears to your Majesty's Commissioners that the only effectual way of dealing with this source of danger would be a satisfactory system of watering and thoroughly wetting it. This precaution is already largely adopted in Durham, South Wales, Staffordshire, Yorkshire, and Derbyshire. In other districts little damping appears to be done."

All that was asked here was that in Clause 6 there should be introduced the same power with reference to damping the coal dust that was given in respect of explosives. It was a remarkable thing that in the report of the Commission the two things were placed on precisely the same footing. The Commissioners stated at the conclusion of their report :—

> "We have carefully considered the evidence on this question from all sides, and, while we are of opinion that the only sufficient precaution hitherto suggested against the dangers of coal dust in fiery mines is a complete and satisfactory system of watering, we also feel that the same reasons which have prevented us from recommending a universal and stereo typed rule in regard to the use of gunpowder apply with equal or even greater force to the provision of expensive and probably complicated systems of watering."

Clause 6 only took explosives, and they said, why not take damping as well? It was really the logical conclusion of the Report of the Commission that they should put the two upon the same footing in reference to the making of regulations by the Home Secretary without arbitration. It was, no doubt, giving one additional power to the Home Secretary, but the feeling on the Grand Committee was almost unanimous in favour of a proposal of this kind, and he believed it was the knowledge of this feeling which had encouraged his hon. Friend to bring forward this Amendment. He understood the Home Secretary did not demur to that, but he was unwilling to assume the responsibility of a shorter and more efficient way of dealing with this matter than could be obtained by arbitration. The Home Office was willing to undertake this duty, but the right hon. Gentleman doubted whether or not Parliament was willing to trust the Home Office so far. Personally, he believed Parliament was perfectly willing to trust the Home Office—[*cheers*]—and, from his knowledge and experience of the Home Office, he was certain that it would be a very capable body for dealing with the question. It would be an impartial body, and would hear all parties interested, and all they had to do was to confer on the Home Secretary powers which would be so useful and beneficial that he ought to possess them. Those were the views which he entertained and which he advanced in the Grand Committee. The right hon. Gentleman at the end of his remarks appealed to a consideration of which he was bound to take notice. The right hon. Gentleman said that this was an agreed Bill. That was so broadly speaking, and certainly he would not do anything that would imperil the passing of the Measure.

["Hear, hear!"] Strongly as he felt upon the matter under discussion, if he thought there was anything in this, or any other Amendment, that would endanger the Bill, he should not be prepared to support it. But, if, as he hoped, all those interested in this industry were willing to trust the Home Secretary with powers in reference to coal dust and damping, as they had trusted him in the matter of explosives, then he thought they would break no agreement by placing such further powers on the right hon. Gentleman. The Amendment was brought forward with the idea of inviting agreement on the question. They were all, of course, equally interested in doing what was best for the protection of the lives of the miners, and he felt sure that if those who represented the mine owners expressed a willingness to accept the Amendment, it would give immense satisfaction in every district where coal was worked. The Home Secretary had stated that he would be willing to undertake the further responsibility for the purpose referred to, and he felt sure the House would be ready to furnish him with the necessary powers. ["Hear, hear!"]

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince) would suggest to the Home Secretary the formation of a Committee of experienced and able Inspectors to consider the whole question of explosives, and to base his decisions on their recommendations and not on the recommendation of each inspector of a district, who might take very different views. With regard to the Amendment, he strongly urged the right hon. Gentleman not to go beyond the powers he had already taken, and not to touch the question of damping at present.

*SIR C. DILKE said it was apparent from the remarks of the last speaker and the speech of the Home Secretary, that the mine owners in the House had made up their minds not to accept the Amendment. This rather confirmed the view which some Members had taken, and expressed on the Second Reading, that on the whole it might have been better to delay the subject until next year and bring in a stronger Bill than to hurry the present Measure through. When it was considered how little this Bill did which really could not be done at present under the Rules and Regulations, he thought it would not have been unwise to wait until next Session, and then to bring in a Bill of a very much stronger character than the one now before the House. ["Hear, hear!"] It seemed a little startling that the House of Commons should find itself with its hands so tied that it was unable to take the view of this Amendment, or even of the stronger Amendment which was on the Paper, until two days ago, which he believed it would take if it were unfettered. The discussion had proceeded on the basis that this Amendment was intended to place damping and watering in the same position as explosives. That was not so. This Amendment was a compromise; it left damping and watering for Special Rules in the first case, and it was only in exceptional cases that the power of the Home Secretary was intended to be exercised. The Home Secretary would not necessarily make an order based upon the opinion of one inspector, but he would naturally be guided by the average view of all the Inspectors, the heads of his Department, and the intentions of Parliament. Under the circumstances he regretted that the matter had not been left over until next year; indeed, he believed there would be less loss of life during the existence of the present Parliament if they waited for a stronger Bill.

*MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) pointed out that the matters of damping and watering had not hitherto been relegated to arbitration. The system of Special Rules had worked very smoothly for nearly a quarter of a century. Nevertheless, he thought some of his hon. Friends were unduly apprehensive of the effects of this proposal. An order of the Secretary of State under the Amendment would only operate in respect of a particular mine, and it was almost inconceivable that that order would be made without a local inquiry which would probably cost some money and take some time. It should be remembered that when provisions restricting the use of explosives were contained in the Bill of 1887 they received the strongest opposition from South Wales, not only from the mine owners, but from the men. On the general question of arbitration, he might, perhaps, be forgiven for telling the House that, from his own experience at the Home Office, he came to the conclusion that, though Special Rules had in very many cases been established, these arbitration provisions were very rarely resorted to. The only case he could remember, though he would not say it was the only one, was a case in which there was an arbitration as to whether a petroleum engine should be used underground. His hon. and gallant Friend below him proposed that the Home Secretary should be guided entirely by a War Office Committee. He could certainly say that the Home Secretary was at present advised on the question of explosives by gentlemen as competent as those in the service of any Government in the world. It was curious that the right hon. Gentleman opposite had not hit upon the most serious objection of all to the present system of arbitration, and that was that what were practically to be private local laws were left to the arrangement of the arbitrator, who was a private person. He thought there was no doubt that the representatives of the mine owners might, without damage or prejudice to their interests, give way on this point. It was right, perhaps, that their legitimate scruples should lead them to ask for a little longer time to become familiarised with procedure; but he suggested that they would have ample time for that purpose before any executive order was made under this Amendment.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said that the great majority of explosions had either arisen immediately from coal dust or been intensified in their effects by it. There was no doubt this Amendment was of a drastic character, as it would impose a greater amount of responsibility on the Home Office with a view to affording greater protection to human life; but he did not think it ought to be agreed to hastily. By this proposal responsibility would be shifted from the coal owner to the inspector, and it was a matter of absolute impossibility that the Inspectors should exercise anything like effective supervision in the matter. The only course open to the Inspectors would be to declare every mine in their districts dry and dusty, and that would meet with opposition not merely from the employers but also from the men. If they did not resort to that procedure, they would only deal with those cases which were brought under their notice, and the effect on the mine owner would be that he would not take so much care, because he would be sheltered under the responsibility of the inspector. There was a great fear that they would be lessening the sense of responsibility on the part of owners by Amendments of this description. There was no proposal so drastic which he would not support if it would tend to the prevention of explosions in mines, but every coal owner, in his own interest, was prepared to take the utmost precautions against explosions. He had had considerable experience in explosions, and he contended that if they imposed this duty upon the Inspectors in the country they would find that it was a duty which could not be effectively performed, and which would at the same time lessen and weaken the sense of responsibility on the part of the mine owners.

Mr. TOMLINSON deprecated the notion that if the mine owners hesitated to accept this Amendment it was because they did not desire to increase the safety of mines. It really was the fact that mine owners, as the hon. and learned Member had said, desired to promote the safety of their mines as far as possible. It could not be lost sight of that in some mines watering was most dangerous, as the roof or floor would not bear the mass of water without risks of other kinds. If the present system of arbitration was superseded it should be by some definite method of inquiry, and the coal owners were perfectly ready to consider any better method by which the system of arbitration might be superseded.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said the arguments used by the hon. and learned Member for North-West Durham might equally well be used against every restriction in favour of safety on our railways, and against every precaution for saving life in dangerous industries. The hon. and learned Member also said that if the Amendment were carried it would remove the responsibility as to dust in mines from the owners to the Inspectors. He did not believe it would, but even if it did throw more responsibility on the Inspectors, the cost of appointing five or ten additional Inspectors would be a small matter compared with getting rid of the dust altogether, and, by damping, removing the causes of explosion. There was a possibility that a keen competition between owner and owner for supplying coal in certain markets would make them lax in the damping of the mines, if it was left to them to do as it was under the present law, and he did not believe the keenness of competition ought to be any excuse for an owner not damping his mine when an inspector declared that it should be damped. The cost of damping would, after all, be paid by the consumer. It would be added to the price of coal, and as the addition would be very little, it would not affect the question of competition in any degree. Speaker after speaker had admitted that arbitration was often costly, frequently slow, and in many cases unscientific. Why, then, should they look upon arbitration as a blessed word, and allow it to prevail in matters affecting the lives and limbs of workers in mines? The attitude of the House of Commons on the question was that the poor are never but always to be blessed. And why was that its attitude? Because the mine owners and the representatives of the men had decided that the Bill should be got through this Session. He believed that the Bill would, in any case, get through. He believed the Amendment, if accepted, would not mean the rejection of the Bill. The only effect of the Amendment if carried, would be to strengthen the Bill without endangering its chance of passing. It was said that, by the regulation of explosives, the chief factor in colliery explosions had been disposed of. But he regarded the presence of dust as the potential factor in all explosions. If there were no dust, it would not matter what lights or explosives were used. There were some authorities who held that coal dust might explode under certain atmospheric conditions without being brought into contact with any flame. Parliament had never moved in the restriction of the conditions of dangerous employments until they had had some ghastly evidence of the necessity for action. It would require two or three more explosions like the Hartley and Audley disasters before the House of Commons would grapple properly with this subject of coal dust. Experiments had gone far enough now to justify the House in taking coal dust regulations out of Clause 1 and putting them into Clause 6. There was no reason why more power should not be given to a central authority, if experience proved that the power could be better exercised so than by a court of arbitration. He objected altogether to the question of damping being settled by a Court of Arbitration, which would be composed in one part of miners who were often reckless of danger, where they did not actually glory in it, and in the other part of mine-owners whose profits were concerned. Arbitration was not only ignorant but unscientific. He hoped the House would follow the lead on this question given by the Leader of the Opposition. Because he believed that democracy has a respect for brains, and that real democracy had brains at its basis, he preferred a centralised Home Office to any board of miners or employers that could be devised

MR. E. BAINBRIDGE (Lincoln, Gainsborough), as one who had given a good many years of his life to endeavouring to reduce the number of accidents in mines, desired to inform the House that there were two kinds of accidents in mines. There were a large number of accidents which no Act of Parliament would ever reach, and there were a number of accidents due to explosions which were almost invariably caused by the improper use of gunpower. In his exposition of the subject the hon. Member for Battersea had given way to exaggerations which were entirely due to want of knowledge. He himself did not think much of the general effect and influence of the Bill, but if there was one important point in it, it was the 6th Clause, which gave the Home Secretary large powers with regard to gunpowder. The right hon. Member for Sheffield had mentioned the fact that arbitrations had occurred seldom in the last 20 years. Why had they occurred so infrequently? Simply because the inspectors of mines had been moderate in their demands. It must not be supposed that mine-owners were not anxiously alive to the danger of explosions. He cordially supported the views of the Home Secretary.

MR. BENJAMIN PICKARD (York, W.R., Normanton) repudiated the insinuation made by the hon. Member for Battersea, that the miners had no common sense, nor could he allow it to be said that they ran risks and gloried in them. He had never seen a man run a risk knowingly, and never known a man glory in having risks round him. In any case, he should be prevented from running risks, and have such protection as this House would give him.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY hoped that the House would allow the Bill to be read a Third time. [*Cheers.*]

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) trusted that the Prime Minister, when he saw this Bill appear in the Upper House, would remember the advice he had formerly given, that legislation by reference should be avoided. There was in this Bill more than one bad case of legislation by reference. He also complained that this Measure placed before every official of the Home Office the temptation to recommend patents either for lamps, explosives, or other material. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make it a rule of the office, and take every precaution to prevent officials at the Home Office from being exposed to the temptation of recommending one patent as against another.

Bill read the Third time, and passed, amid cheers.

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## TRUCK BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

MR. J. SAMUEL (Stockton) wished to know whether the Government intended to proceed with the Bill at that late hour. There were many Amendments of importance on the Paper.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY hoped that some material progress would be made with the Bill before they adjourned.

MR. H. H. ASQUITH (Fife, E.) trusted that the discussion would not be prolonged to an unreasonable hour. There were a considerable number of points that required careful consideration.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY, who had an Amendment on the Paper, "To move that the Bill be considered upon this day three months," said that, as the new clause standing in the Home Secretary's name met the wishes of the cotton trade, he did not propose to move his Amendment.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, after Clause 8, to insert the following clause:—

### POWER TO EXEMPT FROM PROVISIONS OF ACT.

"(1.) The Secretary of State, if satisfied that the provisions of this Act are unnecessary for the protection of the workmen employed in any trade or business, either generally or within any specified area, may, by order under his hand, grant an exemption from those provisions in respect of the persons engaged in that trade or business, either generally or within that area.

(2.) The Secretary of State may at any time amend or revoke any such order.

(3.) Every order made under this section shall be laid as soon as may be before both Houses of Parliament, and if either House, within the next forty days after the order has been so laid before that House, resolves that the order ought to be annulled, the order shall, after the date of that Resolution, be of no effect, without prejudice to the validity of anything done in the meantime under the order or to the making of a new order."

Clause read a First time.

*SIR C. DILKE said that it was an unfortunate fact that some of the Lancashire operatives had been divided from others in their view of the operation of this Bill. The spinners had been one way and the weavers the other. It was unfortunate because there was no reason why a distinction should be drawn between one part of the country and another with regard to truck. The Lancashire cotton industry was as a house divided against itself. He did not blame the Home Secretary for having tried to meet the difficulty that was thereby caused, and, if any geographical concession was to be made, this, he admitted, was the least objectionable way of meeting that difficulty. But the reason why it had become necessary to make the concession was, he feared, that certain of the Lancashire operatives had not understood clearly the present condition of the law. He had received resolutions from Lancashire affirming that this Bill would legalise fines and deductions. As a matter of fact there were no fines or deductions made legal by this Bill which were not legal now. The words of the Bill were express upon the subject. Holding, as he did, the strongest possible opinion against all fines and deductions, and looking forward to the time when they would be entirely abolished, because he believed that all remedies short of total abolition must fail, he certainly should not support this Bill if it legalised fines and deductions which were not legal at the present time. With regard to this clause, if a Division were taken he should vote against it.

*MR. JOHN RUTHERFORD (Lancashire, Darwen), as representing a constituency which comprised quite a quarter of the looms of Lancashire, desired to support the clause of the right hon. Gentleman. He did so because he understood his hon. Friend the Member for Stockport did not intend to move the clause standing in his name. He believed the clause met with the approval of the representatives of all the operatives engaged in the different branches of the cotton trade, as it enabled the Home Secretary (should he think fit) to exempt by an order that particular cotton industry from the operation of the Bill. The operatives wished to do away with fines altogether, and they objected to this Bill, which recognised and regulated fines. This clause would remove that objection, and therefore he cordially supported it.

MR. PHILIP STANHOPE (Burnley) said he had received a letter from the Northern Counties Amalgamated Association of Weavers and other subsidiary societies, representing, he believed, about 140,000 operatives, and they having considered the matter very fully, came to the conclusion that while they would accept the clause as a sort of *pis-aller*, they much preferred to return to the original Bill introduced by the Home Office and modified by an Amendment introduced by an hon. Member from Scotland. He would be obliged to move the Amendment that stood in his name in consequence of the intimation he had received from these societies.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY contended that to exempt those who did not seek to be protected was not a new departure and not an unreasonable thing. It was in accordance with the Factory Acts, and considering this Bill was brought in to protect certain workmen in certain cases, if representations were received that they did not desire to be protected, he did not think it was unreasonable to take power to the Home Office to exempt them at all events for a time from the operation of the Act.

MR. J. SAMUEL asked what would be necessary to exempt workmen from the operation of the Bill, because the matter was left very indefinite.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY explained that when the Secretary of State was satisfied that in any particular branch of trade certain Acts need not be applied he had the power to exempt them. This power he proposed to take. As the Bill was intended for the protection of the workmen it was hardly likely to be applied if it was generally desired that it should not be.

MR. G. WHITELEY denied that the objections of the textile trader had been met by the Home Secretary, and read a letter dated May 28th enclosing a resolution representing the views of 150,000 of the textile workers of Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire protesting against the Bill becoming law, and, asking, at any rate, for the exemption of the interested parties in the cotton trade. The second letter was dated July 9th, and these were from the representative associations of the Manchester weaving industry.

MR. STANHOPE said the letter which he had in his possession was dated 22nd July, so that what the hon. Member had referred to was ancient history.

MR. G. WHITELEY said he had understood from them in the last few days that if the Bill could not be altered, this Amendment would be satisfactory to them. He did not think it was the unanimous desire of the spinners to be placed under this Bill; the spinners were really not affected at all by this Truck Bill. It was a practice which never had been put in force in Lancashire, and it was only in the weaving department of the cotton industry that fining was carried on.

MR. J. WILSON (Durham, Mid), asked by what machinery the workers could bring their views to the Home Office?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that where there was any real case he did not think he should have any difficulty in satisfying himself. Permission was given to the Home Office with reference also to factory operatives, the linen trades, and other branches of industry,

Clause read a Second time.

On the question, "That the clause be added to the Bill,"

*SIR C. DILKE desired to ask the Home Secretary whether he was satisfied that the words "any trade" would do without being guarded? There was, undoubtedly, a difference of opinion between the spinners' organisation, as represented by Mr. Mawdsley, and the weavers' organisation, as represented by Mr. Holmes, and taking power to exempt any trade would seem to him, for instance, to apply to the whole of the cotton trade. Ought they not to say "any trade or any branch of any trade."

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY saw no objection to adopting the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman.

*MR. SPEAKER: That should have been moved before I put the Question, "That the clause be added to the Bill."

*SIR C. DILKE: I rose immediately before the Question was put, "That the clause be read a Second time."

*MR. SPEAKER: I put the Question, "That the clause be read a Second time," and declared the "Ayes" had it before the right hon. Baronet rose.

*SIR C. DILKE: I rose at the time, Sir. I think my hon. Friends can bear me out in that. ["Hear, hear!"] In fact, Sir, I rose too soon on purpose to be in time.

*MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman sat down again, and I put the Question and declared the "Ayes" had it. I then put the Question, "That the clause be added to the Bill," and the right hon. Baronet then rose and addressed the House.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he would undertake that the point raised by the right hon. Gentleman should be looked into.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

**Mr. HAROLD TENNANT** (Berwickshire) brought up the following new clause :—

APPLICATION OF 51 & 52 VICT., C. 46, TO OUT-WORKERS.

"Section thirteen, Sub-section two, of the fiftieth and fifty-first years of Victoria, chapter forty-six, shall be deemed to apply to all laundries and places where work is given out by the occupier of a factory or workshop, or by a contractor or sub-contractor."

***Mr. SPEAKER** : I understand this clause is accepted with a slight alteration?

**Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY** said there was only a clerical alteration made so as to show clearly what the clause really intended to do.

Clause read a First and Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill in following amended form :—

DUTIES OF INSPECTORS.

"Sub-section 2 of Section 13 of the Truck Convention Act, 1887 (which relates to the duty of Inspectors), shall apply in the case of a laundry, and in the case of any place where work is given out by the occupier of a factory or workshop, or by a contractor, or sub-contractor, in like manner as it applies in the case of a factory."

Clause 1,—

DEDUCTIONS OR PAYMENTS IN RESPECT OF FINES.

(1.) An employer shall not make any contract with any workman for any deduction from the gross sum contracted to be paid by the employer to the workman, or for any payment to the employer by the workman, for or in respect of any fine, unless—

(*a*) the contract is embodied in a printed notice affixed at the pit head or at the entrance of a factory or workshop, and in such parts of a mine, factory or workshop as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines or Factories may direct or approve, and constantly kept so affixed in such a position that it can be easily read by the persons employed in the mine, factory, or workshop; or the contract is in writing, signed by the workman; and

(*b*) the contract specifies the acts or omissions in respect of which the fine may be imposed, and the amount of the fine or the particulars from which that amount may be ascertained; and

(*c*) the fine imposed under the contract is in respect of some act or omission which causes or is likely to cause damage or loss to the employer, or interruption or hindrance to his business; and

(*d*) the amount of the fine is fair and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

(2.) An employer shall not make any such deduction or receive any such payment, unless—

(*a*) the deduction or payment is made in pursuance of, or in accordance with, such a contract as aforesaid; and

(*b*) particulars in writing showing the acts or omissions in respect of which the fine is imposed and the amount thereof are supplied to the workman on each occasion when a deduction or payment is made.

(3.) This section shall apply to the case of a shop assistant in like manner as it applies to the case of a workman.

**Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY** moved in Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "gross"—("from the gross sum").

***Sir C. DILKE** asked for an explanation as to why this word was to be left out.

**Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY** said he was informed by the legal advisers of the Government that the expression really meant nothing, and it appeared to some Members that the word "gross" was liable to be misunderstood, and might possibly give rise to errors. It was in order to prevent injustice being done that it was proposed to leave out the word.

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. GEORGE HARWOOD** (Bolton) moved to leave out Sub-section (*a*). The description of the Bill as a Truck Bill was a misnomer. It had nothing whatever to do with truck in a technical sense. It merely dealt with fines. Fining was diminishing in all trades as the trades were becoming more organised. He thought sufficient was done by Clause 2, in which provision was made for fines in respect to bad or negligent work, or injury to materials or other property of employers, and there was consequently no necessity for Sub-section (*a*) of Clause 1. Clause 2 made it a condition of such fining, and a printed notice should be put up. But he thought that in this case, the putting up of a printed notice was not sufficient, and that there should be a distinct agreement in the matter.

MR. STANHOPE pointed out that the object of his hon. friend would be best attained by an Amendment he (Mr. Stanhope) had lower down on the Paper.

MR. HARWOOD said he saw that, and wished to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved to omit the following words from Sub-section (*a*) :—

"contract is embodied in a printed notice affixed at the pit head or at the entrance of a factory or workshop, and in such parts of a mine, factory, or workshop as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines or Factories may direct or approve, and constantly kept so affixed in such a position that it can be easily read by the persons employed in the mine, factory, or workshop,"

and to insert instead thereof the words—

"terms of the contract are contained in a printed notice kept constantly affixed at such place or places open to workmen, and in such a position that it may be easily seen, read, and copied by any person whom it affects."

MR. STANHOPE said the Amendment afforded a good opportunity to raise the whole question in regard to the printed notice. In the original Bill there was no necessity laid down for the printed notice at all. In that Bill the only stipulation was that the contract should be signed by the workmen, and no kind of objection was raised with respect to that stipulation. But a very strong and a very proper objection was taken by the operatives to the exhibition of the printed notice, which they contended would amount to what had been termed a crystallisation of a system of fines. Now the operatives engaged in cotton trade in north-east Lancashire, at least, were extraordinarily well organised. He believed that 97 per cent. of them were in union, and thus they were well able to take care of themselves. When the question of deductions arose, the unions, therefore, were well able to fight their own battle, and the consequence was that few cases of deductions occurred. He was confident that all hon. Members who represented constituencies in Lancashire would agree with him when he said the operatives were earnestly desirous to get rid altogether of the stipulation with regard to the printed notice, and he hoped, when a division was taken on the question, that those who objected to the Amendment would receive, even at that eleventh hour, some support from hon. Members generally in their effort to strike out this objectionable and obnoxious provision from the Bill.

MR. G. WHITELEY did not think anyone who had had experience of managing large bodies of workmen would argue it was possible for an employer to have a contract with every single workman in his employ. Many of the employés might be children learning their business, and not able to enter into or to carry out a contract. So far as regarded the cotton trade, it ought to be borne in mind that a good deal of the work in cotton weaving sheds was educational. Children entered the sheds just as they left school, and they had to learn their business, and they did so at the expense of the master. Fines and deductions for bad work were some return to the master for the work that was spoiled by children while they were learning their business. [*A laugh.*] The hon. Member who laughed was not a cotton master, but spoke as a gentleman who lived in London. The result of abolishing fines would be that masters would refuse to take the smaller children into their employ. He asked the House to look at this matter, not in a doctrinaire but in a practical light. He hoped the clause would be carried as it was but plus a new clause exempting those workmen who objected to come under the purview of the Bill.

MR. H. H. ASQUITH desired to point out that the Bill was intended to afford additional protection to the workpeople, not only in the cotton trade but in all trades, against fines and deductions which were at present in too many cases exacted from them without their knowledge or consent. For the most part it was the unorganised workers who needed protection, and he thought the Home Secretary had done perfectly right in taking the proposed power to himself. Let him take the case of one of the unorganised trades in which protection was really needed, and let him ask the House whether, if the words they were now asking to be omitted were retained in the clause, any real protection would be afforded? For a long period there was a struggle by the common carriers, particularly the railway carriers, to escape from the obligation the common law imposed upon them to look after the safety of the goods intrusted to their charge, and by the construction put on the Carriers Act they were allowed, by just such notice in their office as was contemplated by this clause, and which not half of their customers saw, to impose exemptions which practically rendered them not liable at all. The result was that 40 years ago the carriers were not responsible for the loss of, or damage to, the goods they carried. Due provision was now made for the protection of the traders. If they were going to give protection to traders in this country, why should they deny it to these ignorant, unorganised, and unprotected workmen, many of whom were illiterate, or not accustomed closely to study documents of this kind? It was unfortunate that the Grand Committee, which was not, he thought, on that particular occasion, very fully attended, should have imported these words into the clause, which would very largely neutralise its beneficial effect. He could not conceive a subject in relation to which the House was more entitled to revise the decision of the Grand Committee, a decision which was contrary to the opinion of the Government itself. The principle was a vicious one, which should be extended least of all in the case of people who, *ex hypothesi*, were unable to protect themselves, and he earnestly hoped the House, notwithstanding what the right hon. Gentleman had said, would reverse this unfortunate decision. ["Hear, hear!"]

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) agreed that this was a purely protective Measure, but they ought to take into account the interests of the employers as well as the employés. The proposal in practice would be most difficult to carry out. They had the interest of their employés at heart, but to take his own case, for example, where 3,000 men were employed in a business, it would not be possible to enter into so many individual contracts. In his place of employment the rules of the establishment were placed on the walls where the men could see them, and these rules embodied those sections which dealt with fines. Moreover, the employés were entitled to demand a copy of these rules from their employers, and that was the greatest possible protection to the men.

MR. J. SAMUEL said there was only one way out of the difficulty, and that was the abolition of fines altogether. He was surprised at the action of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to be under the impression that the Bill would be a protection to workmen. He was of a different opinion. It merely provided for the bringing prominently under the notice of workmen the terms of contracts with regard to fines. In a memorandum circulated by the Home Secretary in reference to the Bill, it was stated that from 1831 up to 1889 the common impression in the country was that fines were illegal. The original Truck Act of 1831 distinctly stated in its third section that all wages should be paid in their entirety; and that gave rise to the general impression that fines were illegal. Even the late Mr. Bradlaugh, when he was promoting his Bill in 1887, was of that opinion. But there was a case tried in 1889 in which the Judges decided that fines were legal. He would appeal to the Home Secretary to withdraw the Bill. If it were passed into law, it would only produce more friction and more strikes. The employer was empowered by the Bill, by simply enumerating the causes of fines, to impose any fines he pleased on his workmen. Was it fair to expect a working man in need of employment, and with a family dependent on him, to carefully consider the terms of this notice? It was a cruel Bill, which would work great injury to the working man. There was no subject on which the working classes were more sensitive than that of fines. He had in his hand a check for one of the large works in his constituency; and if all the fines enumerated there were exacted, the workmen would get no wages at all. But these fines were not exacted as a matter of practice, because of the fear of strikes. Suppose the Members of the House of Commons were fined for every mistake they made.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question is not as to the propriety of imposing fines, but as to whether they shall be binding on the workmen if enumerated in a particular notice and in particular circumstances.

MR. J. SAMUEL, continuing, said that he hoped the Home Secretary would withdraw the Bill, and bring in another for the abolition of fines altogether; and, at any rate, he appealed to him not to press this Amendment.

MR. GEORGE HARWOOD pointed out that Clause 2 provides for deductions in respect of bad or negligent work, and of injury to the material or other property of the employer. Those words covered all the ordinary cases in which deductions ought to be made; and if any other cases were to be provided for, they ought to be defined in special and individual written contracts. To give notice by hanging up a list was a mere absurdity; he never knew anyone to read such lists.

MR. WOLFF thought that if a notice was put up at the entrance to the works every one would read it, while if a printed notice or contract was used the workmen, if work was slack, would sign anything without caring what was inside the document.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY appealed to the House to come to a decision. The question had been fairly threshed out.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) said the strongest argument against fines had just been brought forward. Take the case of a man whose daily bread depended on getting work. His wife and family were starving; the man entered the office of the works, the notice might be obnoxious and cruel, the fines might be unjust in their character, and yet the man knew that his very existence depended on getting work. It was possible for the employer to frame a notice that would hedge the workmen round by fines in such a way as to affect his wages very seriously. The best thing to do was not to crystallise these fines. In his county it would be impossible for employers to bring out a notice in which the fines were cruel, but in many places labour was not organised in the same way. Of course, some employers were fair-minded men, but Acts of Parliament of this kind were not made for generous employers. Let them not give employers power to force unjust fines upon their workmen.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that the Home Secretary was under a misapprehension if he supposed that the mere posting of a notice would constitute a guarantee that a fine was moderate and reasonable. Practically, the principle of this Bill was embodied in the suggested Amendment of the Home Secretary. The hon. Member for Mid Durham had said that if an attempt were made in his county to get workmen to agree to fines the whole trade would go out on strike. That was happily true of Durham, but in London and elsewhere there were unskilled labourers who could be compelled to accept fines and deduction. In fact they were springing up in London as thickly as leaves in Vallombrosa. Immediately this Bill came before the Grand Committee, the South London Tramways Company——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now discussing cases arising under Clause 3.

MR. BURNS said he would discuss the effect of the Amendment later on on that clause. A paper was put into the men's hands. They had to sign it, and in that agreement they were asked to pay a shilling a week out of their wages for a suit of clothes they did not want.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now discussing the propriety of binding the men by the contract signed by them.

MR. BURNS said that assuming the agreement did not fix the fine upon the men, the Home Secretary took a more tyrannical method of enforcing it; it was simply to take a paste-pot and paste up a notice in the stable by which the men would be bound to pay this shilling a week. Whether the Home Secretary liked it or not, his attempt to diminish fines by having this printed notice, would only create other insidious methods of extracting them, and he believed that after 12 months experience of this clause, the Home Secretary would be compelled to bring in a Truck Bill next year to abolish fines altogether. That was the only consistent way, and he trusted hon. Members would discuss it clause after clause until they brought that home to the conscience of the House of Commons.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 129; Noes, 60.—(Division List, No. 352.)

**Mr. HARWOOD** moved, in Sub-section (*c*), to leave out the words "which causes or is likely to cause," and to insert instead thereof the words "which has caused." He contended that, if poor people were fined, they should be fined for damage which was proved to be done.

**Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY** remarked that the Amendment was not necessary, as it meant exactly the same thing as was meant by the clause.

**Mr. G. HARWOOD** thought it ought to be made perfectly clear that a workman was not to be liable to be fined on possible damage, but only on provable damage. That was not clear as the clause now stood.

**Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY** promised that the matter should be cleared up hereafter, and the Amendment was withdrawn.

**Mr. McKENNA** moved the following Amendment: To leave out Sub-section (3), and to insert instead thereof the words—

> "For the purposes of this section the expression 'workman' includes a shop assistant."

He thought the Amendment was necessary as a matter of drafting.

**Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY** said he was advised that the words in the clause really carried out the intention of the framers far better than would the suggested alteration of the hon. Member.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 2,—

DEDUCTIONS OF PAYMENTS IN RESPECT OF DAMAGED GOODS.

(1.) An employer shall not make any contract with any deduction from the gross sum contracted to be paid by the employer to the workman, or for any payment to the employer by the workman for or in respect of bad or negligent work or injury to the materials or other property of the employer, unless—

(*a*) the contract is embodied in a printed notice affixed at the pit head or at the entrance of a factory or workshop, and in such parts of a mine, factory, or workshop as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines or Factories may direct or approve, and constantly kept so affixed in such a position that it can be easily read by the persons employed in the mine, factory, or workshop; or the contract is in writing, signed by the workmen; and

(*b*) the deduction or payment to be made under the contract does not exceed the actual or estimated damage or loss occasioned to the employer by the act or omission of the workman, or of some person over whom he has control, or for whom he has by the contract agreed to be responsible; and

(*c*) the amount of the deduction or payment is fair and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

(2.) An employer shall not make any such deduction or receive any such payment unless—

(*a*) the deduction or payment is made in pursuance of, or in accordance with, such a contract as aforesaid; and

(*b*) particulars in writing showing the acts or omissions in respect of which the deduction or payment is made and the amount thereof are supplied to the workman on each occasion when a deduction or payment is made.

**Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY** moved in Sub-section (1) to leave out the word "gross."

Amendment agreed to.

**Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY** moved to omit the following words from paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1):—

> "contract is embodied in a printed notice affixed at the pit head or at the entrance of a factory or workshop, and in such parts of a mine, factory, or workshop as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines or Factories may direct or approve, and constantly kept so affixed in such a position that it can be easily read by the persons employed in the mine, factory, or workshop,"

and to insert instead thereof the words—

> "terms of the contract are contained in a printed notice kept constantly affixed at such place or places open to workmen, and in such a position that it may be easily seen, read, and copied by any person whom it affects."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. McKENNA** moved in paragraph (*b*) Sub-section (1) to leave out the words "actual or estimated."

**Mr. J. SAMUEL** said he had an objection to this Amendment, and he suggested therefore, that it should not be entered upon at such a late hour.

**Mr. SAMUEL EVANS** moved the adjournment of the Debate.

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY**: I do not object.

Debate adjourned till To-morrow.

## TELEGRAPH MONEY BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

## FINANCE BILL.

Third Reading deferred till To-morrow.

## SUPPLY [24TH JULY].

Resolutions reported.

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS IV.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £616,077 (including a Supplementary sum of £3,375), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £605, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners for managing certain School Endowments in Ireland."

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,643, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Gallery of Ireland."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,450, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for a Grant in aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland."

### CLASS I.

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £137,341 be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Erection, Repairs, and Maintenance of Public Buildings in Ireland, for the Maintenance of certain Parks and Public Works, and for Drainage Works on the River Shannon."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £19,503, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for Payments under 'The Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act, 1883,' and the Light Railways (Ireland) Acts, 1889 and 1893."

### CLASS II.

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £24,597, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Public Works in Ireland."

### CLASS III.

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £41,825, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £75,656, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature and of certain other Legal Departments in Ireland as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £42,258, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Irish Land Commission."

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £77,700, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries, Allowances, Expenses, and Pensions of various County Court Officers, of Divisional Commissioners, and of Magistrates in Ireland, and the Expenses of Revision."

12. "That a sum, not exceeding £66,298, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Commissioner of Police, the Police Courts, and the Metropolitan Police Establishment of Dublin."

"13. That a sum, not exceeding £70,642, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Expenses of the General Prisons Board in Ireland, and of the Prisons under their control, and of the Registration of Habitual Criminals."

14. "That a sum, not exceeding £57,749, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Expenses of Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Ireland."

15. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,841, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics in the Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland."

### CLASS VI.

16. "That a sum, not exceeding £11,372, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for a Grant in Aid of the Local Cost of Maintenance of Pauper Lunatics in Ireland."

17. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,774, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for Hospitals and Infirmaries, and certain Miscellaneous, Charitable, and other Allowances in Ireland."

Resolutions read a Second time.

First Resolution postponed.

Resolutions Two to Six agreed to.

Resolutions Seven and Eight postponed.

Resolution Nine agreed to.

Resolution Ten postponed.

Subsequent Resolutions agreed to.

Postponed Resolutions to be considered To-morrow.

## BISHOPRIC OF BRISTOL ACT AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Read a Second time, and committed for To-morrow.

## AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS' AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY GUARANTEE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## STANNARIES BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

## LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS [EXCISE DUTY].

Considered in Committee:—

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an additional excise duty on every light locomotive which is liable to duty, either as a carriage or as a hackney carriage, under section four of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1888, at the following rate:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds one ton unladen, but does not exceed two tons unladen ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds two tons unladen ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |

such excise duty to be paid annually; and the proceeds of such duty to be paid into the Local Taxation Accounts."—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

**MR. T. M. HEALY** said the Bill would have a peculiar effect in some cases in Ireland, and

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD** (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford) was understood to say that the Bill would not apply to Ireland at all. There was no carriage duty in Ireland as in England, and he had avoided making any alteration except in regard to those cases where duty was paid at present.

**MR. J. SAMUEL** asked if the new licence was to be brought under the Local Taxation Account. [HON. MEMBERS: "Yes!"] Then he thought the discussion ought to be adjourned. There was a great deal of discontent in the non-county boroughs, because they did not receive their just proportion of these grants from the County Council. If motor cars were to be used on the highways within non-county boroughs, the boroughs would suffer a greater injustice still. Under the circumstances, he moved : "That the Chairman do report Progress and ask leave to sit again."

Motion negatived.

**MR. T. LOUGH** (Islington, W.) inquired if the cars would be taxed as private locomotives or as public conveyances. He understood that now private carriages paid £2 2s. each, and a public carriage 15s.

**MR. CHAPLIN** said the motor cars would be taxed according to weight.

**MR. JAMES DALY** (Monaghan, S.) : Will this Bill apply to Ireland ? [*Laughter and cries of* "No, no !"]

Original Question put and agreed to.

Resolved :—

"That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an additional excise duty on every light locomotive which is liable to duty, either as a carriage or as a hackney carriage, under Section four of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1888, at the following rate :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds one ton unladen, but does not exceed two tons unladen . . . . . | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds two tons unladen . | 3 | 3 | 0 |

such excise duty to be paid annually ; and the proceeds of such duty to be paid into the Local Taxation Accounts."

Resolution to be reported to-morrow.

## LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL [H.L.]

Consideration, as amended by the Standing Committee, deferred till To-morrow.

## LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

Third Reading deferred till To-morrow.

## MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [15th May] further adjourned till To-morrow

## MILITARY WORKS [MONEY].

Committee thereupon deferred till To-morrow.

## NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

(Considered in Committee.)

Clause 1,—

AMENDMENT OF LAW AS TO RAISING AND PAYMENT OF ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEERS.

(1.) The power under the Royal Naval Reserve Volunteer Act, 1849, to raise and pay volunteers may, subject to regulations of the Admiralty, be exercised outside the British Islands : Provided that a volunteer shall not be raised or paid outside the British Islands unless he is a British subject serving on a vessel registered in the British Islands.

(2.) In section one of the said Act the words "in the United Kingdom and the Islands of Man, Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, and Sark, or any of them," and in section nine of the same Act the words "in the United Kingdom or in the Islands of Man, Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, and Sark, and nowhere else, and" are hereby repealed.

**MR. LOUGH** asked that some explanation of the Bill should be given.

**THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY** (Mr. W. E. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.) said that this was a Bill simply to enable certain naval reserves to obtain their retainers.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.]

On the Order for Second reading,

**MR. CALDWELL** explained that the Bill sought to remedy what was said to be a defect in one of the Acts passed in 1892. That defect was that the Act did not give the right to urban authorities to borrow money for the housing of the working classes. Undoubtedly, this Bill would give urban authorities such power. There was, however, an important point to be considered, and it was upon whom would the rating in respect of the housing of the working classes fall ? In Scotland, as a rule, the rates were levied one-half upon the owner and one-half upon the occupier, but if the Bill were passed in its present form the rates in the burghs would be levied solely upon the occupiers. They ought to have some clear indication from the Government that if they were giving the power to the burghs to assess and borrow money for these purposes, they would give to the occupier in the burghs the same protection which the occupier in the counties had, of being liable for only one-half the rate. The division of rates between owner and occupier was one which might be applied to other parts of the United Kingdom.

MR. J. SAMUEL moved that the Debate be adjourned, on the ground that Scotch Members on that side of the House had gone home under the impression that this Bill would not be taken.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) said the Bill was intended merely to repair an error in a previous Act. The Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1890 gave the burghs power to borrow. In 1892 an amending Act was passed, but by a slip in amending a clause, the power of borrowing, which the burghs had before, was inadvertently taken away from them. The object of the Bill was to restore those powers to the burghs, and the House would agree that the occasion for establishing a new system of rating was hardly afforded by such a Bill.

DR. CLARK said the Bill was a piece of legislation by implication, and as such it was objectionable.

Bill read a Second time, and committed for Thursday.

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## RAILWAYS (IRELAND) BILL.

On the Order for the Third Reading of this Bill,

MR. T. M. HEALY begged to ask the Government to give some explanation of their intentions in regard to the grants to be made under this Bill. It would rest with the Treasury to say whether grants were to be made, and whether any scheme was to be adopted. Did the Government mean vigorously to carry out the Measure?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) said that it was the intention of the Government to press the Treasury to allow the money to be spent.

*Mr. Caldwell.*

From what had passed between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and himself, he did not think that the Treasury would raise any serious difficulty. He could not say at the moment in what locality the money would be spent, but he had no doubt that the larger part of it would have to go to the congested districts.

Bill read the Third time, and passed.

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## SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

## WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

## OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] further adjourned till Tomorrow.

## LARCENY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Tomorrow.

## BURGLARY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Tomorrow.

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## PUBLIC WORKS LOANS.

Bill to grant moneys for the purpose of certain local loans, and for other purposes relating to local loans, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer; presented accordingly, and read the First time; to be read the Second time Tomorrow, and to be printed.—[Bill 327.]

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at a Quarter after Two o'clock.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Tuesday, 28th July 1896.*

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## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

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### LONDONDERRY IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Reported without Amendments.

### ABENSUR'S NATURALISATION BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

### PRIVATE BILLS.

The EARL OF MORLEY (CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES) moved that the Standing Orders be amended as follows:—

[NOTE.—The words struck through are to be omitted, and the words printed in *Italics* are to be inserted.]

#### NOTICE TO SPECIFY LANDS IN CASE OF GAS WORKS, SEWAGE WORKS, BURIAL GROUND, DESTRUCTOR, ETC.

5. In cases of Bills for constructing gas works or sewage works, or works for the manufacture or conversion of the residual products *of gas or sewage*, or for making or constructing a sewage farm, cemetery, burial ground, *crematorium*, destructor, hospital for infectious disease, or station for generating electric power, the notices shall set forth and specify the lands in or upon which such gas works, sewage works, works for the manufacture or conversion of residual products, farm, cemetery, burial ground, *crematorium*, destructor, hospital, or generating station, is intended to be made or constructed.

### *Tramways, Underground Railways, and Subways.*

#### NOTICES TO BE POSTED IN STREET OR ROAD.

10. In the months of October and November, or one of them, immediately preceding the application for any Bill for laying down a tramway or constructing an underground railway or subway, *when such Bill contains powers authorising any alteration or disturbance of the surface of any street or road*, notice thereof shall be posted for fourteen consecutive days in every *such* street or road ~~along or under which it is proposed to lay the tramway or construct the railway or subway~~ in such manner as the authority having the control of such street or road shall direct; and if after application to such authority no such direction shall be given then in some conspicuous position in every such street or road, and such notice shall also state the place or places at which the plans of such tramway, railway, or subway will be deposited.

#### NOTICE TO OWNERS, ETC., WITHIN 300 YARDS OF GAS WORKS, SEWAGE WORKS, CEMETERY, DESTRUCTOR, ETC.

15. On or before the fifteenth day of December immediately preceding the application for a Bill for constructing gas works or sewage works, or works for the manufacture or conversion of the residual products *of gas or sewage*, or for making or constructing a sewage farm, cemetery, burial ground, *crematorium*, destructor, or hospital for infectious disease, notice shall be served upon the owner and lessee of every dwelling house situate within three hundred yards of the lands in or upon which such gas works, sewage works, works for the manufacture or conversion of residual products, farm, cemetery, burial ground, *crematorium*, destructor, or hospital, may be made or constructed.

#### CONSENTS IN CASE OF TRAMWAY BILLS.

22. In cases of Bills to authorise the laying down of a tramway, the promoters shall obtain the consent of the local authority of the district or districts through which it is proposed to construct such tramway, and where in any district there is a road authority distinct from the local authority, the consent of such road authority shall also be necessary in any case where power is sought to break up any road subject to the jurisdiction of such road authority. For the purposes of this Order, the local and road authorities in England and Scotland shall be the local and road authorities mentioned in Section 3 *and Schedule A* of "The Tramways Act 1870," except that in the case of *such schedule* ~~tramways situate within the area of the County of London~~ "the London County Council" shall be substituted for "the Metropolitan Board of Works," *"urban district council" for "local board," and "rural district council" for "vestry, select vestry, or other body of persons acting by virtue of any Act of Parliament, prescription, custom, or otherwise, as or instead of a vestry or select vestry"*; and in Ireland shall be the grand jury of the county in respect to any highway or portion of highway within the jurisdiction of such grand jury; and in respect to highways wholly or partly within any city, borough, town corporate, or other place or district in which the public roads are not under the control of the grand jury of the county, shall be the respective local and road authorities of such city, borough, town corporate, or other place or district mentioned in Section 38 of "The Tramways (Ireland) Act 1860": Provided that where it is proposed to lay down a continuous line of tramway in two

or more districts, and any local or road authority having jurisdiction in any such districts does not consent thereto, the consents of the local and road authority, or the local and road authorities having jurisdiction over two-thirds in length of the streets and roads along which such line of tramway is proposed to be laid, shall be deemed to be sufficient.

### DEPOSIT OF PLANS, ETC., IN CASE OF PROVISIONAL ORDERS IN PARLIAMENT OFFICE.

39. Whenever plans, sections, books of reference, or maps, are deposited in the case of an application to any public department or county council for a provisional order or certificate, duplicates of the said documents shall ~~at the same time~~ *also* be deposited in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments; provided that with regard to such deposits as are so made at any public department or with any county council after the prorogation of Parliament and before the thirtieth day of November in any year such duplicates shall be so deposited on or before the thirtieth day of November.

### LIMITS OF LATERAL DEVIATION OF EMBANKMENT OF RESERVOIR TO BE DEFINED ON PLAN, AND INCLUDED LANDS TO BE MARKED.

40*a*. In cases where it is proposed to make, vary, extend, or enlarge any reservoir, the plans shall describe the embankment or retaining wall thereof; and where it is the intention of the promoters to apply for powers to make any lateral deviation from the line of such embankment or retaining wall, the limits of *such* deviation shall be *separately* defined on the plan, and all lands included within such limits shall be marked thereon.

### PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION.

61. * * * *

Compliance with this Order shall ~~be optional and~~ not ~~compulsory~~ *be necessary* in the case of alterations made on petition for additional provision in the House of Commons.

### MEETING OF MEMBERS OF LIMITED COMPANY, SOCIETY, ETC., IN THE CASE OF BILL PROMOTED BY A COMPANY, ETC.

63. In the case of every Bill, whether originating in this House, or in the House of Commons, *promoted*

(4.) ~~Promoted~~ by any company, society, association, or co-partnership formed or registered under the Companies Act 1862, or constituted by Act of Parliament, Royal charter, letters patent, deed of settlement, contract of co-partnery, cost book regulations, or other instrument, and under the management of a committee or directors or trustees (and not being a company to which the preceding Order applies), or

### ~~OR EMPOWERING OR REQUIRING ANY COMPANY, SOCIETY, ETC., TO DO ANY ACT NOT AUTHORIZED UNDER EXISTING POWERS.~~

~~(2.) Empowering or requiring any such company, society, association, or co-partnership, not being the promoters of the Bill, to do any act not authorised by the memorandum and articles of association or other instrument or instruments constituting or regulating such company, society, association, or co-partnership, or authorising or enacting the abandonment of the undertaking, or any part of the undertaking, of any such company, society, association, or co-partnership, or the dissolution thereof.~~

### MEETING OF MEMBERS OF LIMITED COMPANIES, ETC., IN THE CASE OF CERTAIN BILLS ORIGINATING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS *OR THERE MATERIALLY ALTERED.*

65. In the case of every Bill brought from the House of Commons, in which provisions have been inserted in that House empowering or requiring any company, society, association, or co-partnership formed or registered under the Companies Act 1862, or constituted by Act of Parliament, Royal charter, letters patent, deed of settlement, contract of co-partnery, cost book regulations, or other instrument or instruments, and under the management of a committee or directors or trustees, and not being a company to which the preceding Order applies, to do any act not authorized by the memorandum and articles of association of such company, or other instrument constituting or regulating such company, society, association, or co-partnership, or authorizing or enacting the abandonment of the undertaking, or any part of the undertaking of any such company, society, association, or co-partnership, or the dissolution thereof, *or in which any such provisions originally contained in the Bill have been materially altered in that House, or by which any such powers are conferred on any company, society, association, or co-partnership not being the promoters of the Bill*, the Examiner shall report as to compliance or non-compliance with the following requirements:

* * * *

### COMMITTEE OF SELECTION.

97. The Chairman of Committees and four other Lords to be named by the House shall be appointed a Committee to select and propose to the House the names of the five Lords to form a Select Committee for the consideration of each opposed Local Bill or Provisional Order Confirmation Bill, and shall appoint the Chairman of

such Committee, and shall name the Bill or Bills which shall be taken into consideration on the first day of meeting of such Committee.

*If a vacancy occur in any such Select Committee in the interval between any two sittings of the House, the Chairman of Committees may appoint a Lord to fill such vacancy, and in such case shall report the same to the House at the next sitting.*

New Standing Order 105B:

### *Chamber of Agriculture, etc., may be heard if injuriously affected.*

*Where a chamber of agriculture, commerce, or shipping, or a mining or miners' association sufficiently representing the agriculture, trade, mining, or commerce in any district to which any Bill relates, petition against the Bill alleging that such agriculture, trade, mining, or commerce, will be injuriously affected by the provisions contained in the Bill, it shall be competent for the Select Committee to whom the Bill is referred, if they think fit, to hear the petitioners or their counsel or agents and witnesses on such allegation against the Bill or any part thereof.*

### NO INTEREST OUT OF CAPITAL TO BE PAID ON CALLS UNDER RAILWAY BILLS, EXCEPT SUCH AS THE COMMITTEE THINK FIT TO ALLOW.

128. A clause shall be inserted in every Railway Bill prohibiting the payment of any interest or dividend out of any capital which the company have been or may be authorised to raise, either by means of calls, or of any power of borrowing, to any shareholder on the amount of the calls made in respect of the shares held by him, except such interest on money advanced by any shareholder beyond the amount of the calls actually made as in conformity with the Companies Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, or the Companies Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1845, as the case may be; and except such interest (if any) as the Committee on the Bill may, according to the circumstances of the case, think fit to allow, subject always to the following conditions:—

(1.) That the rate of interest allowed by the Committee do not in any case exceed four *three* per centum per annum;

* * * *

And the company ~~shall~~ *may* be authorized by the Bill to pay interest accordingly, but not further or otherwise.

~~If in any case the Committee on the Bill do not think fit to allow any such interest, then there shall be inserted in the Bill provisions making liable to penalties, recoverable summarily, any director or officer of the company who shall, directly or indirectly, pay or procure to be paid any interest or dividend prohibited as aforesaid, and making illegal and void any contract entered into by the company, or the directors thereof, or any of them, under which payment of any interest or dividend prohibited as aforesaid shall be, directly or indirectly, provided for.~~

### NO POWERS FOR CONSTRUCTION, ACQUISITION, OR TAKING ON LEASE OF TRAMWAYS *BEYOND THEIR DISTRICT* TO BE GIVEN TO A LOCAL AUTHORITY, EXCEPT UNDER SPECIAL LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

133. No powers shall be given to any local authority to construct, acquire, or take on lease *or work* any tramway or portion of tramway beyond the limits of their district, unless such tramway or portion of tramway is in connection with a tramway belonging to, or authorised to be constructed or acquired *or worked* by the local authority, and unless the Committee on the Bill shall determine that, having regard to the special local circumstances, such construction, acquisition, or taking on lease *or working* ought to be sanctioned.

* * * *

### ~~NO POWERS TO BE GIVEN TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO RUN CARRIAGES AND TAKE TOLLS UPON TRAMWAYS EXCEPT UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.~~

~~133A. No powers shall be given to any local authority to place or run carriages upon any tramway, and to demand and take tolls and charges in respect of the use of such carriages, subject to the following exceptions only:—~~

Leave out Sub-section A.

### *Where a local authority are empowered to work tramways power may be given to enter into agreements for running powers over connected tramways.*

(B.) Where th~~e~~ *a* local authority are empowered to work any tramways belonging to, or authorised to be constructed or acquired by them, the Committee on the Bill may, if they think fit under the special circumstances of the case, empower the local authority to enter into agreements for running powers over any tramways in connection with the tramways so worked or to be worked by them, and such running powers shall be deemed to be a purpose of the Public Health Act, 1875 and * *

* * * *

### BORROWING POWERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES GOVERNMENT BILLS.

134. In the case of any Bill whereby any municipal corporation, district council, improvement commissioners, joint board or joint committee, or other local authority in England or Wales, are authorised to borrow money for any purpose within the jurisdiction of *the Board of Trade or* the Local Government Board, ~~without the sanction of the respective Board~~, estimates showing the proposed application of the money for permanent works ~~within the meaning of the 234th section of the Public Health Act, 1875, or as defined by any subsequent Act,~~ shall,

*except so far as the exercise of the borrowing power is made subject to the sanction of the respective Board,* be recited in the Bill as introduced into Parliament and proved before the Committee.

### LANDS FOR GAS WORKS, SEWAGE WORKS, ETC., TO BE DEFINED.

139. In every Bill for making, or constructing gas works or sewage works, or works for the manufacture or conversion of the residual products *of gas or sewage*, or for making or constructing, altering, or enlarging any sewage farm, cemetery, burial ground, *crematorium*, destructor, hospital for infectious disease, or station for generating electric power, there shall be inserted a clause defining the lands in or upon which such gas works, sewage works, farm, cemetery, burial ground, *crematorium*, destructor, hospital, or generating station may be made or constructed.

The noble Earl explained that most of them were consequential on recent legislation. But there were one or two points to which he ought to call the attention of the House. They were originally on the notice he gave to amend the drafting on certain Amendments with regard to the deposit of plans and sections, and the notices to be given before private Bills were introduced. He found it extremely difficult to make the alterations he desired in the Standing Orders, and he postponed them until next year. But it would be necessary, and he trusted he would be able next year to give attention to the question, which very much required it. The first order to which he would refer was Order 22, relating to the consent of local authorities to Tramway Bills. In that Order he had inserted District Councils in substitution for "vestry" or "select vestry," mentioned formerly. That was necessary as the Rural District Council had control over the roads. In Order 63 there was an Amendment of great length, but it merely amounted to this: To place a limited company in the same position for proving meetings before the second House, that a Parliamentary company was in now. That was the sole object of the Amendment. In Order 97, there was a point which he particularly desired to call attention to, because it affected himself. In that Order power would be given to the Chairman of Committees in case any Peer failed to attend at any of the Opposed Bill Committees after the meeting of the House, to appoint a Peer to take his place. Twice this year a Peer had, in consequence of illness, been unable to be present at the Committee, and considerable difficulty was caused. A Committee might be delayed for a whole day, especially if the Committee were sitting on Wednesday, and the House were not sitting in a judicial capacity. The object of his Amendment was to enable him to place a Peer on the Committee to make it complete. He would have preferred if power could have been given to the Committee of Selection instead of to himself individually, but as this must be a case of emergency arising generally between 10 and 11 a.m., it would be impossible for him to consult his colleagues on the Committee of Selection, which he would very much sooner have done. He had, therefore, in the Amendment, taken power to appoint a Peer to complete the Committee, binding himself to report it at the next sitting of the House. If he could thus appoint a Peer when necessary, much expense and inconvenience might often be saved to parties promoting or opposing Bills. The next Order he would refer to gave certain Chambers of Agriculture and Chambers of Commerce and Shipping a *locus standi* before Committees. This had been passed by the House of Commons, and he thought their Lordships would desire to bring their Standing Orders in accordance with those of the other House in that respect. He did not think there was any other point he need call attention to. The other Amendments were the result, chiefly of actions taken by Parliament, such as granting to local authorities power to work as well as construct tramways. This had necessitated the cancelling of Standing Orders that had hitherto prevented the working of tramways. With these remarks he begged to move that the Amendments be adopted.

Agreed to; Standing Orders amended accordingly, and to be printed as amended. —[No. 225.]

### PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS.

On the Motion for the Second Reading of the Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill,

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY moved that the Bill be read a Second time that day three months, and complained of the procedure of the Local Government Board in mixing up two schemes for different counties in the same Bill. The scheme for Birkenhead was a good one. He might be asked why he moved the rejection of the whole Bill. But he had been informed that it was not in order to move the rejection of the Leeds scheme before the Second Reading. Then he might be asked why he did not wait for the Second Reading. The reason was that before the Committee of the other House, a person called a referee interposed and prevented a number of questions being put before the Committee, because they had not been raised on the Second Reading. He should like to know what were the functions of a referee with regard to private Bills. He had never heard of a referee before except in regard to prize fights and similar events. The referee in this case was a Mr. Bonham Carter. He could not find he was a Member of the other House at all, and the only thing he could imagine was that the Chairmen of the other House were not sufficiently competent, and were obliged to have professional men to assist them, much as unpaid magistrates had to have a law clerk. Mr. Bonham Carter stated that because these points had not been raised on the Second Reading, the Committee could not go into them. As to the merits of the Bill, no one disputed the area was an insanitary one, and, perhaps, almost all the houses were bad. But that rather spoke to the discredit of the Corporation of Leeds, which had not had them repaired from time to time, and not taken precautions to prevent overcrowding. There were four public houses in the area which were admitted not to be insanitary, and no complaint was made as to the other public houses, for the owners of which nobody appeared. The corporation proposed to demolish houses on 16¼ acres. The population of the area was 3,844, all necessarily poor. For only 2,000 of these the Corporation proposed to provide dwellings, the excuse being made that the others were shopkeepers. But shopkeepers who supplied poor people like these living in slums must necessarily be poor themselves, and provision ought to be made for the people who were to be displaced as was done in the case of the Metropolitan Streets Improvement Act of 1877, Clause 34 of which provided for the re-housing of people of the poorer classes, as well as of working men. He complained that the Local Government Board had acted *ultra vires* in sanctioning] an Order without having the scheme put before them. During the hearing before the Committee they tried to maintain that there was a scheme, which was for pulling down houses on an area of 16¼ acres, and afterwards building houses in their place. The people of Leeds, however, had had no opportunity of giving their opinion, and did not know in the least what was going to be done. The corporation expected to get £58,000 from the sale of surplus land, but how would there be any surplus land at all when there were nearly 2,000 people displaced for whom no provision was made? In the alteration of the Standing Orders there had been an addition made to Clause 134, and he should like to ask the noble Earl (the Earl of Morley) how that would bear upon this point? The words had been added, "unless the exercise of the borrowing power is made subject to the sanction of the respective Board." Would that go beyond the tether now imposed on corporations by which they were not allowed to borrow more than a certain amount? The amount of the debt of Leeds exceeded £4,000,000, and the extreme limit allowed by the regulations was £6,612,268. Preston was already ruined, and unable to borrow any more because the town had got so much into debt. He contended that the cost of the projected improvement by the Leeds Corporation had been very much understated. £126,000 was the cost estimated for acquiring the sites. Mr. Pember stated that the paper-mill site alone would cost from £100,000 to £200,000, and taking the former figure, if 10 acres were worth upwards of £100,000 for the site alone, how could 16 acres outside this, in the area to be taken be said to be worth only £126,000, unless the people were given less than the value of their sites? He wished to call the attention of the Chairman of Committees to another irregularity which was sufficient to vitiate the proceedings in another place, and he felt quite certain the noble Lord the Chairman of their Lordships' Committees would never sanction that a person residing within twelve miles, as the crow flies, of a town for which a contentious Bill was to be brought forward, should be the person who should act as Chairman of the Committee concerning such Bill. That, however, was what took place in the case of this Committee. With regard to the question of dissents and assents to the scheme, the dissents were more numerous that the assents. There were 634 houses to be demolished, and 447 notices to owners, which showed that these owners were poor people, not capable of opposing the Bill. The scheme was hurried through without the ratepayers having any opportunity of considering the matter. On inquiry being made into the subject the Mayor of Leeds distinctly refused to state what plan was to be presented before the Committee. He said the Corporation was not bound to any plan, and, in short, everything was in the air. There were 15 public-houses in the area, and the Chairman of the Committee was very anxious—but did not succeed—to get a definite statement from the Corporation that these public-houses should not be reduced or there should not be an area without any public-house in it at all. Only four public-houses were represented, the proprietors claiming that they were not to be compensated merely for the value of the bricks and mortar of the houses, but also for the licence, that their houses were not insanitary, that one or two of them had been rebuilt lately, and it was admitted that they were in good order. There was one witness who stated that the 15 public-houses would be valued on account of the licences at from £45,000 to £50,000. If they deducted that from the sum of £126,000, it left very little for the rest of the area. He thought he had touched upon all the questions that were likely to come before the Committee, so that it would not be able to be said that they ought to have been referred to on the Second Reading and had not been. He moved that the Bill be read a Second time this day three months.

Lord HARRIS desired, in the first place, to express his regret to the noble Lord who had just spoken, and to every noble Lord who came down on Monday expecting that this Bill would be proceeded with, that he was unable to give them earlier notice than was done of the necessity of deferring the Second Reading until to-day. He was not aware the Bill was opposed until Saturday morning, and he took the promptest steps in his power of advising the Clerk of Parliament, and of writing to the noble Lord himself. He was given to understand, in answer to the objection of the noble Lord to the mixing of the two Provisional Orders in one Bill, that it would be scarcely possible to put each order into a separate Bill. It would this year have involved over 130 separate Bills, instead of 29 Confirmation Bills. If their Lordships had taken their knowledge of this Bill from what the noble Lord had said, he was afraid they would imagine that the Local Government Board had been proceeding in an arbitrary and autocratic manner. As a matter of fact, the Local Government Board and the Corporation of Leeds had proceeded in the most strictly legal manner, and every person who had a right to be heard, both for and against the proposal, had been advised of the various steps that had been taken under the Act. What did the opposition amount to? There were 15 licensed public-houses in the area in Leeds affected by this Bill. They were represented at the local inquiry held in Leeds, and when the Bill came before the House of Commons Committee, the opposition had been reduced to, he thought, four public-houses. The House of Commons listened to what those four representatives had to say, but, having done so, they passed the Bill. The opposition in their Lordships' House had, he understood, been reduced to three public-houses. That was the amount and the class of opposition the noble Lord was representing that day. The steps that had been taken to support this proposal were these. The official medical officer had reported that the area was in an insanitary condition. The corporation, having taken his report into consideration, had prepared a scheme, with maps and plans for the consideration of the Local Government Board. The Local Government Board had held its Inquiry, and had listened to what had got to be said for and against the scheme upon the spot, while its officers had examined the area personally. Upon the information the officers thus obtained, they reported to the Local Government Board, who, after the consideration of the report, had consented to the scheme being proceeded with, subject, of course, to the sanction of Parliament and to certain conditions. He was given to understand that the main objection of the noble Lord to the Bill was that the scheme presented by the local authority was not such a scheme as was intended by the Act. He was given to understand that the scheme was, to all intents and purposes, precisely of the same nature as all schemes that were presented for the consideration of the Local Government Board upon Motions of this character, and that it would be extremely difficult, if it was at all possible, to present such a scheme in detail as would set forth every alteration that was to come into force in the future. What the scheme and the plans and the map of the Corporation did was to give the outlines of the area affected. He was given to understand that one of the reasons why this Bill was opposed by the representatives of these three public-houses was that if they could get their plots of land and tenements excluded from the provisions of Clause 8 of the Bill, they could then obtain the 10 per cent. compensation for compulsory acquirement which, as, under this Bill they were included in the insanitary area, they could not now do. When their Lordships remembered that some 12 other public-houses were not opposing the Bill in this House, they would realise the unfairness, apart from any other considerations, there would be in giving special consideration to these three persons, and allowing them to have extra compensation which was not asked for by the other 12 occupants of the public-houses. Another provision laid down was that the laying out of streets and approaches and other matters, and the dealing of the site when acquired, were to be subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board. The houses for the accommodation of 2,000 of the working classes displaced by the scheme were to be provided within the area by instalments, and the area could only be cleared piecemeal by four instalments as the accommodation mentioned was provided. That, he thought, showed that the Local Government Board had been careful in giving its approval to this considerable alteration, and had been mindful to see that the convenience of the poorer classes should be as carefully considered as possible. On all these grounds he thought their Lordships would agree that there was no reason for granting the objection of these persons, or for interfering with the passage of this Bill through its Second Reading stage.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (VISCOUNT CROSS) assured the noble Lord that this scheme came entirely within the meaning of the Act of 1875, which he had the honour of passing.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES said that the noble Lord's Motion obviously could not be entertained by the House, because, while destroying the offending Leeds Order, he would at the same time be dealing a deadly blow at the unoffending Birkenhead Order. The practice of grouping several Orders in one Bill had been the universal practice, and had always been very conveniently adhered to. The noble Lord seemed rather to hold a brief for the opponents of this Bill and had entered into a large number of details which would be far more opportunely discussed before the Committee. He would point out that the Second Reading of a Private Bill was practically a formal stage, and did not commit the House in any shape to the principle of the Preamble of the Bill. Anything that might be discussed in the whole House was equally open to the Committee to which the Bill was referred, to discuss, and that included Preamble, Clauses, and, he ventured also to think, the jurisdiction of the Department which introduced the Bill. The opponents of the Bill would have ample opportunities of being heard before the Committee to which the Bill was referred, and the noble Lord would have an opportunity of doing so if he was not satisfied with the decision of the Committee. He thought that under these circumstances, and after hearing the explanation given by the noble Lord who represented the Local Government Board, the House could have no hesitation in rejecting the Motion of the noble Lord, and in assenting to the Second Reading of the Bill. The noble Lord had asked him a question about the Amendments which he had just moved to the Standing Orders—namely, in reference to the

Order 134. He could assure the noble Lord that the Order would make no difference whatever in the present practice, which was that in private Bills which empowered local authorities to raise money for improvement schemes, either estimates must be recited or the money sanctioned to be raised with the consent either of the Board of Trade or the Local Government Board as the case might be.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said he had forgotten to state one fact which he should like their Lordships to know. He was entirely disinterested in Leeds. He knew nothing of the place, and believed he had only passed through it once. As he understood from the noble Lord the Chairman of Committees that the opponents of the Bill would have ample opportunities of being heard before the Committee, he would not trouble their Lordships further, and would withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 16) BILL.

LORD HARRIS, in moving that the House go into Committee on this Bill, said that he would like to take that opportunity of explaining how it was that it was necessary to move the suspension of the Standing Orders on this and other Provisional Order Bills the other day, and thus supplement the explanation he then gave and which the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack intimated that he considered inadequate. Bill No. 16 was late in coming up to their Lordships' House through the opposition offered to it in the House of Commons. Then Bills Nos. 21 and 22 were certainly introduced late into the House of Commons, and as they referred to the water supply of two very large services in the country, the House of Commons agreed to suspend their Standing Order, and allowed the Bill to proceed. He was entirely unaware that any question would arise in their Lordships' House as to the suspension of the Standing Orders, or he should then have been ready with the explanation he had now given.

Motion agreed to; Bill committed.

Bill considered in Committee (according to Order); reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

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## COLLECTING SOCIETIES BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

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## FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

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## WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments; the Report thereof to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. —[No. 218.]

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## JUDICIAL TRUSTEES BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments; the Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received on Friday next; and Bill to be printed as amended.—[No. 219.]

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## COAL MINES REGULATION ACT (1887) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Thursday next. — *(Lord Belper.)* — [No. 220.]

### CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª, and to be printed.—[No. 221.]

### NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª, and to be printed.—[No. 222.]

### RAILWAYS (IRELAND) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Friday next.—*(The Earl of Ranfurly.)*—[No. 223.]

VISCOUNT CROSS said he believed it would be convenient for the House to meet To-morrow, in order to receive a Bill from the House of Commons, and, therefore, he would move that the House on its rising do adjourn until half-past Five o'clock To-morrow (Wednesday).

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at Twenty-five minutes past Six o'clock, till To-morrow, Half-past Five o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Tuesday, 28th July 1896.*

### NAVAL PRIZE MONEY.

Account [presented 27th July] to be printed.—[No. 318.]

### BURIALS BILL.

Order for Second Reading this day read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 23) BILL.

On the Order for the Third Reading of this Bill,

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said he desired to enter a protest against a Bill of this character, which was opposed in many quarters, being brought forward at such a late period of the Session, and especially being sent up to the Upper House, when it was impossible for it to receive the consideration it deserved. The Bill was to enable the Walton Parish Council to establish a sewage farm at the extreme edge of their parish and the parish of Esher, where there was valuable property. If the Parish Council of Walton wanted to establish a sewage farm they ought to establish it in the centre of their own parish and not at the extreme boundary, where it would prove an injury to another parish. The President of the Local Government Board and the Secretary to the Board had acted with extreme courtesy to those who objected to the Bill, and he did not desire to oppose its Third Reading, but he hoped that objection might be taken in another place to a Bill of this character being sent up to them at such a period of the Session. Besides, there was in Walton parish itself an admirable site—the Field Common site—into which the Committee did not go. He hoped that the Standing Orders in another place would provide against an opposed Measure of this kind being passed.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) said that the usual procedure had been adopted in regard to this Bill. An Inquiry had been held by the Local Government Board; the whole scheme had been submitted to a Committee, the finding of the Committee had been unanimous, and when he found that the hon. Member desired to object to the Bill he postponed the Third Reading until that day, in the hope of arriving at an agreement. Failing that agreement, the Bill would go to another place, where the hon. Member would have a full opportunity of raising his objections.

Bill read the Third time, and passed.

## QUESTIONS.

### RAILWAY SECTIONAL MAPS.

Mr. W. E. M. TOMLINSON (Preston): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the fact that the Committee of the Railway Clearing House have decided no longer to issue for public use the sectional maps of railways, with distances marked thereon, formerly issued by Mr. Airey, and considering that, in the absence of such maps, traders will frequently have great difficulty in determining the legality of the rates charged by railway companies, the Board of Trade will consider the desirability of themselves issuing similar maps as official publications; whether he is aware that, in contravention of Section 14 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1873, the distances are in some cases omitted from the rate books required to be kept by railway companies for public inspection; and, if he can see his way to compel the railway companies to comply strictly with the obligation imposed upon them by this section, and also require them to publish the distance tables which he stated that, in compliance with their obligations, they have had already prepared?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. C. T. Ritchie, Croydon): I am in communication with the Railway Association with reference to this matter, and it is engaging their attention at the present time. The statute to which my hon. Friend refers imposes a penalty for a contravention of Section 14, and it is of course open to any person aggrieved to institute proceedings. I cannot compel the companies to do more in the way of publication of distances than the law demands. The distance tables referred to are compiled by the companies for their own use, but they are, no doubt, valuable in assisting the companies to compute the distances for insertion in their rate books.

### DULWICH COLLEGE TOLL GATE.

Colonel MELLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that there still exists on an important thoroughfare in London a turnpike where toll is claimed and paid at Dulwich; whether inquiry could be made to discover whether this gate has any legal right to exist; and, whether, in such an event, it would be desirable to take steps for its abolition?

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Henry Chaplin, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I am informed that the gate referred to is the property of the Dulwich College Estate, and that College Road, in which it is fixed, is a private road belonging to and repairable by the estate. I understand that the Vestry of Camberwell, as the highway authority, asked the London County Council last year to include this gate in a Parliamentary Bill for removal. It is not a matter in which the Local Government Board have any jurisdiction or authority to intervene.

### SOUDAN EXPEDITION

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it will be necessary to obtain a Vote in the present Session for British expenditure in connection with the Soudan expedition or dispatch of Indian troops to Suakim, or whether it is the intention of the Government to defer asking for such a Vote until next Session?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): No, I do not expect to be in a position to propose such a Vote this Session.

### PATTERN POST.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General (1) whether he is aware that much dissatisfaction exists in trading circles owing to the fact that the minimum charge for a packet of patterns or samples is one penny, and that the circulation of patterns and samples is thereby rendered expensive; (2) whether he has observed that it costs an American or Japanese merchant no more to send a packet of patterns or samples to this country than it costs an Englishman to send a similar packet from Liverpool to Birkenhead or from Leeds to Bradford; and (3) whether he will confer a much-desired boon on British trading enterprise by assimilating the minimum charge for patterns and samples to that prescribed to book-post matter, namely, one halfpenny for two ounces?

*THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The Postmaster General is not aware of the accuracy of the statement in the first paragraph. As the Foreign Sample Rate is the same as the Inland Sample Rate, it costs no more to send a sample from America or Japan to this country than to send a sample from one part of England to another; but it also costs no more to send a sample from this country to America or Japan, so that the British merchant is not subjected to any disadvantage. The question of adopting the minimum rate of one halfpenny for samples has been fully considered; but such a rate would involve a considerable loss of revenue, and the Postmaster General cannot see his way to its adoption. The hon. Member, who apparently objects to the Foreign and Inland Sample Rate being identical, had a Question upon the Paper yesterday objecting to the Foreign and Inland postage for invoices being different.

## CASTLECOMER POST OFFICE.

MR. THOMAS B. CURRAN (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if serious complaints by Miss A. Kenny respecting the treatment of postal matter at Castlecomer have been acknowledged to be well founded by the Department; if he will explain how they arose, and what notice has been taken of the matter; and has anything been done to prevent a recurrence of such complaints?

*MR. HANBURY: The facts of the case referred to in the hon. Member's Question are as follows: In March 1895 Miss A. Kenny, of Castlecomer, wrote to the Secretary of the Post Office in Dublin complaining that a letter addressed to her had been tampered with. Inquiry was at once set on foot; but, by some unfortunate accident, the official papers on the subject, together with the envelope of the letter said to have been tampered with, were lost, and Miss Kenny's complaint remained unanswered. On Miss Kenny renewing her application, the Secretary of the Post Office in Dublin placed the matter in the hands of an experienced officer for special investigation, but he could find no reason for supposing that the letter had been tampered with in the post. The officer who made the investigation saw Miss Kenny personally and explained the whole case, as he then supposed, to her satisfaction. The Postmaster General believes that there is no ground for thinking that postal packets are improperly treated at Castlecomer.

## STATISTICAL OFFICE, CUSTOMS.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, if an official written information was conveyed to the abstractors in the Statistical Office, Customs, on 8th May last, to the effect that the question of ordinary leave to be allowed them was being dealt with separately by the Treasury; and, if so, whether considering that the holiday season is now well advanced, he can state when the Treasury Minute dealing with the question may be expected?

*MR. HANBURY: A Treasury letter of the 22nd April referring to the Statistical Office Establishment stated that the question of the abstractors' leave and sick leave would be dealt with in a separate communication. The reference was to a circular letter issued two days later very largely extending the sick-leave of abstractors—which thus became the same as that of second division clerks—and pointing out that the maximum amount of sick-leave and ordinary leave combined which an officer may have on full pay in any one year should be strictly limited to six months, but there was no intention of issuing any further minute dealing with the ordinary leave of abstractors, which is the same as that of second division clerks during the first five years of service.

## CARRIAGE OF LETTERS (IRISH RAILWAYS).

MR. J. H. PARNELL (Meath, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, when renewing the contracts with the Midland Railway of Ireland for the carrying of letters, he will include in it the carriage of letters addressed to Kilmessan, county Meath, and thereby prevent the delay in their delivery which exists at present, owing to their being sent by the Great Northern Railway round by Navan, where they were kept for 24 hours before being sent on?

MR. HANBURY: It is not the difficulty of making arrangements with the Midland Great Western Railway for the carriage of the bags that prevents the Postmaster General from complying with the requests which have been made for a day mail to Kilmessan. The difficulty lies in the small amount of correspondence to be benefited by a day mail, which is insufficient to warrant the cost of conveying the additional bags and effecting the delivery.

### LABOURERS' COTTAGES (TULLA UNION).

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board in Ireland sanctioned a considerable time ago the erection, on certain conditions, of 35 labourers' cottages in the Tulla Union, and the taking of 50 additional half-acres of land for existing cottages; and, have the Guardians, so far as it lay in their power, complied with the conditions, and, if so, has the Local Government Board now any objection to sanction the scheme?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Local Government Board are awaiting a further report from their auditor, which has been promised very soon, before considering the question of confirming the scheme.

### PROPERTY ESCHEATED TO CROWN.

MR. BYRON REED (Bradford, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether a memorial has been received by the Lords of the Treasury from one Afred Charles Lott, relating to certain freehold, leasehold, and copyhold properties, situate in the county of Middlesex and elsewhere, of the estimated value of three millions sterling, in which it is alleged that one Henry Page executed a voluntary deed conveying the said estate to his solicitor; whether such a deed can be maintained against the Crown to escheat on failure of heir-at-law; whether, in face of the allegations in the said petition, he will cause steps to be taken to bring the facts before the Law Officers of the Crown, with a view to the property being escheated; and whether, in the event of the property being so escheated, the said Alfred Charles Lott would be entitled, as petitioner, to a share?

MR. HANBURY: A Memorial dated 20th July has been received by the Treasury from one Alfred Charles Lott, alleging that certain property mentioned therein has escheated to the Crown, and praying that a lease of such property may be granted to him. This Memorial is one of many of a similar description which have been received from this person during the last 25 years, and the Treasury have, under legal advice, declined, and must still decline, to take any action in the matter on behalf of the Crown.

### ULVERSTON BURIAL BOARD.

MR. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that, notwithstanding the assurance given by the Ulverston Burial Board in September 1894, that the Board's table of fees and charges would be altered to bring them into conformity with the provisions of Section 17 of the 20 and 21 Vic., c. 81, the Board has continued to include in its table fees payable to the minister in the unconsecrated ground identical in amount with those legally payable to the vicar in the consecrated part: whether he is aware that the Countesthorpe (Leicestershire) Parish Council, acting as a Burial Board, charges a fee for the erection of a headstone in both parts of the cemetery, but, while paying the fee to the incumbent in the consecrated part, carries the fee in the unconsecrated part to the account of the Board; and, whether steps will be taken, in the case of both cemeteries, to obtain such an alteration of the charges as will make them conform to the provisions of the above-quoted Act?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): As regards Ulverston, I am informed by the District Council that they have quite recently transferred to themselves, under, I presume, the powers conferred upon them by the Local Government Act, 1894, the duties of the Burial Board, and that a new table of fees will shortly be framed and submitted for approval. The facts as regards Countesthorpe are correctly stated in the Question, and had already been brought to my notice. There appears to be a misconception on the part of the Parish Council as to the proper construction of the Burial Act of 1857, and I am in communication with them on the point.

### BRADFORD MOOR BARRACKS.

**Mr. BYRON REED**: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War—(1) whether he is now able to state what reparations have been effected to Bradford Moor Barracks during last year and this, and what sums of money have been expended thereupon; and (2), whether the War Office have taken steps to confirm their previous figures by inquiries and investigations made on the spot?

***The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for WAR** (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): The sum expended in the last financial year was, as previously stated, £1,125. The sum estimated for this year is £1,257. I have forwarded to my hon. Friend a detail of these services, which could not be given within the compass of the Question. The answer to the last paragraph is in the affirmative.

### DEFENCE OF LONDON (SURREY FORTS.)

**Mr. J. H. DALZIEL** (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War at what part of of the Army Estimates, either of the present or of previous years, are shown the fortified works now being proceeded with in the neighbourhood of the Guildford, Dorking, and Reigate line of hills.

**Mr. BRODRICK**: The sums included in the Estimates for these works have been taken on Vote 10, Part 1.

### LIQUOR LICENCE (BOMBAY).

***Mr. HENRY J. WILSON** (York, W.R., Holmfirth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the Abkari Department at Bombay has granted a licence for a new liquor shop in Sleater Road (a part of Bombay where there had not previously been any such shop), notwithstanding that an influentially-signed protest had been forwarded from residents in that neighbourhood; whether granting a licence under such circumstances is at variance with the declared policy of the Indian Government as expressed in the Dispatches of the Secretary of State, No. 28, of 19th April, 1888, and No. 31, of 14th March, 1889, and of the Government of India, No. 157, of 25th May, 1889, and No. 29, of 4th February, 1890; whether the police interested themselves in discouraging opposition on the part of the inhabitants; whether the licensee had rendered useful service to the police during the Bombay riots; and whether facilitating the grant of this license was in the nature of a reward for such services?

**The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA** (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): I have no official information as to the matters to which the hon. Member alludes; but it is the practice of the Department before new shops are opened to ascertain the wishes of the local residents.

### BOATSWAINS (ROYAL NAVY).

**Mr. H. E. KEARLEY** (Devonport): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty for what reasons boatswains of the Royal Navy are not permitted to qualify for a gunnery certificate on similar terms to those extended to gunners by Admiralty Circular of 12th March last?

**The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY** (Mr. G. J. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover Square): Boatswains are not called upon to perform the duties of gunners, and thus there are no reasons for allowing them to qualify in gunnery. Petty officers who are candidates for boatswains' warrants are allowed to change their election for promotion to gunners or torpedo gunners, if they are considered suitable.

### "MAGPIE" (H.M.S).

**Mr. KEARLEY**: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the crew of H.M.S. *Magpie*, recently returned from the West Coast Station, will be granted a week's extra leave for services on the Gambia, as has been conceded to the relieved crews of other vessels engaged in this expedition?

**The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY**: This leave has already been granted.

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the hon. Member for Thirsk, as a Charity Commissioner—(1) what is the total capital value of the endowments excepted from the operation of the scheme of 1890, which have recently been acquired by the governing body of Christ's Hospital for the purposes of the said scheme; (2) what proportion of such capital sum it is proposed to lay out upon the site purchased by the governing body near Horsham; (3) whether it is proposed to devote any and what amount of this capital sum to the establishment of day schools in London, in accordance with the provisions of the scheme of 1890; (4) what is the estimated cost of the new buildings proposed to be erected for Christ's Hospital Schools on the site near Horsham, and for what number of scholars is accommodation to be provided; (5) whether an adequate and unexceptionable water supply has now been found on the estate itself, and whether any and what analysis of the same has been made; and, if so, by whom, and what is the result of such analysis; (6) what proportion of the sum proposed to be laid out on the site near Horsham will be expended on under-draining the land on which it is proposed to build, and what amount will be spent in laying out and developing the adjacent land; (7) whether any and what arrangement has been concluded with the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company as to the number of trains per diem which will stop at the special station which is to be provided for the school; (8) what approximately will be the duration of the journey from London to the special station and from the special station to London respectively, and what arrangement has been made with the railway company as to the issue of cheap return tickets at reduced rates; and (9) will such tickets be available for use by all trains, or, if not, by how many and by what trains?

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham) asked whether it was not the fact that for several weeks the people had been engaged in draining the land which was the subject of the question; and that the medical officer of health in West Sussex, who was an acknowledged authority, had reported most favourably on the situation and the water supply?

MR. GRANT LAWSON (York, N.R., Thirsk): Yes, Sir, I have had those facts brought to my attention. As to the Question on the Paper, the answer to the first Question is, about £122,000. To the second and third, the governing body of Christ's Hospital are entitled to receive the income only of the accepted endowments, and have no power to deal with this capital. To the fourth, the estimate for the erection of the new buildings, in accordance with the plans as now modified, is about £253,000. These plans have not as yet been approved by the Charity Commissioners. It is proposed to provide at present for 500 to 600 boys and for 200 girls. The Charity Commissioners, while responsible for the approval of the site for the new hospital buildings and for the general sanction of capital expenditure upon that site, are not charged with the current administration either of the hospital generally or of the particular work of its removal to another site. The Commissioners are, therefore, unable to answer these questions further than to say that their approval was given to the acquisition of the site at Horsham upon professional evidence as to the abundance and excellence of the water supply there, and that they have sanctioned the expenditure by the governing body of a capital sum not exceeding £20,000 in draining, roads, levelling, and planting, in connection with the new buildings. It may be added that the Commissioners learn from a report issued by the governing body that the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company have agreed to build a station on the site and to give cheap fares and exceptional facilities for reaching it.

## SALTAIRE RAILWAY STATION.

MR. FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the official complaints of the Shipley District Council as to the alleged dangerous state of the platforms at the Saltaire railway station; whether he is aware that the station is frequently very crowded with traffic; and, if he will communicate with the Midland Railway Company with a view to every possible step being taken to increase the safety and convenience of the Saltaire station?

Mr. RITCHIE: My attention had not been called to this matter until the hon. Member's Question appeared on the Paper—no complaints having reached the Department on the subject. The Board of Trade are now in communication with the Midland Railway Company respecting it.

## LEVEL CROSSING (WATERFORD AND LIMERICK RAILWAY).

Mr. D. KILBRIDE (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, with reference to the local crossing on the Waterford and Limerick Railway within half a mile of Miltown station, whether he is aware that there is on the entrance a self-closing gate which closes with much force, and that the gate is so dangerous that a child named John Godfrey lately got caught between the gate and the post, and that children going to school have often to return home, being unable to open the gate; whether he is aware that in a recent case at Petty Sessions, Miltown, the magistrates declared that the state of this crossing rendered it dangerous to travel on this line of railway; and, whether he will make inquiry and see that portion of the award of the recent arbitration relating to level crossing and gate lodge is carried out in respect of this crossing?

Mr. RITCHIE: I have little to add to my reply to the hon. Member's Question of the 26th August 1895, which presumably related to this crossing. The Company inform me that the level crossing gate is an ordinary one, and that they have no knowledge of the case of Godfrey or of children being unable to open the gate. They have, however, knowledge of prosecutions instituted and fines inflicted on persons for omitting to shut the gate and allowing cattle to trespass on the line. The Company can give me no information as to the case at Miltown Sessions. If the hon. Member will give me all the facts at his disposal I will cause them to be examined, but the Board have no power to make any order as to ordinary accommodation crossings.

## ATHLONE TOWN CLERKSHIP.

Mr. JASPER TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the fact that there are rival claimants for the position of town clerk in Athlone, and that the question is now the subject of litigation in the superior courts; and whether, as was done when a similar difficulty arose some years ago in the township of Boyle, he will direct that the police authorities will not bring summonses in the name of either of the alleged town clerks pending the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The police are not aware that the validity of the appointment of the gentleman now acting as town clerk of Athlone forms the subject of litigation in the superior courts. In the Boyle case referred to, there was prolonged litigation between the dismissed town clerk and the Boyle Commissioners, and the police adopted the course of proceeding in the Petty Sessions Court for all offences committed in the town under the Summary Jurisdiction and other Acts. Should the recent proceedings of the Athlone Commissioners in reference to the clerkship of that town be questioned, the desirability of taking action similar to that adopted at Boyle will be considered.

## LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY (Cork): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it has been brought to his notice that, under the Land Bill as it stands, though purchasers' insurance money is no longer to be payable in the case of advances made after the Bill passes, it remains payable in the case of prior advances, even though made so recently that not a single instalment of the purchase annuity has yet become payable; and whether he will consent to amend the Bill so as to make purchasers' insurance money no longer payable once the Bill passes?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: There would be considerable difficulty in relieving purchasers whose annuities had been already settled from paying purchasers' insurance money, as it would involve a recalculation of the annuity an alteration of the conveyancing order, and considerable trouble. But under Clause 17 (5) every purchaser will, at the end of the first decade, get the benefit of what he has paid for purchasers' insurance money by having it treated as a reduction of the capital debt, and therefore in reduction of his purchase annuity.

### SCHOOLMISTRESSES (IRELAND).

Mr. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that, under the alternative scheme of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, work mistresses in the schools are obliged to give the whole school day to their duties, at an annual salary of £12, he will try to have these salaries augmented?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Proposals have been submitted to the Irish Government by the Commissioners in relation to the remuneration of work mistresses, and these proposals will receive due consideration.

### GOLD COAST (LAND COMMISSION).

Mr. D. F. GODDARD (Ipswich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, in a recent speech at Liverpool, Sir William E. Maxwell, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Gold Coast, stated that it would be proposed to make it impossible for the native chiefs to make any concession of land without the concurrence of the Governor; whether the native chiefs will be consulted before such a proposal becomes law; and whether the Colonial Office has sanctioned this policy?

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): Yes, Sir: I have sanctioned this policy, and there are good reasons for it. ["Hear, hear!"] The land laws and land customs of West Africa are different from the law of land tenure in England, while the concessions are framed in the language of English conveyancing, and purport to convey the fee simple or to grant a lease with the conditions which are incident to such transaction here, but are probably unintelligible to the native signing the instruments. It is uncertain how far native chiefs possess the right of making alienations of this character for their own benefit, and in some instances concessions have been brought to the local Government for approval which have proved to be signed by men who had no title in the land. In the interest of all the native tribes and chiefs, as well as of British investors, it is essential that the local Government should be able to see that such transactions are made in good faith and on reasonable terms, and that the conditions are thoroughly understood by the natives. ["Hear, hear!"]

### WATER SUPPLY (LONDON).

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the frequent cases in which the London water companies increase their charges for the supply of water, because the increase of the rates has necessitated an increase of rateable assessment, without giving any increase of supply, and to the allegation that the profits of the water companies have been thus greatly increased; and if, in dealing with the water question in the metropolis, he will take care that steps are taken to relieve consumers from this additional burden, and to regulate payment for water by its supply, as in the case of gas and electric light, provision, if necessary, being made for the use of a minimum quantity for sanitary purposes?

Mr. CHAPLIN: The charges which the companies are authorised to make for the supply of water for domestic purposes are regulated by the local Acts of the companies and the Water Rate Definition Act, 1885. They depend to a great extent on the rateable value of the premises supplied. It would no doubt happen that if the rateable value of a house was increased without any circumstances requiring an additional water supply for domestic purposes, the company would benefit by the change. On the other hand, where a house becomes diminished in value, as, for instance, in consequence of a change in the character of the neighbourhood, and the rateable value is reduced, the company lose by the alteration. I have no means of forming an accurate opinion as to the extent to which the different London water companies are affected by such changes. The present system of charge is generally in force throughout the country, not only where the water is supplied by companies, but also where it is supplied by corporations and other local authorities. I may point out that, if the charges for water supplied for domestic purposes were regulated, as suggested, by the amount of water consumed, the effect would be to increase the charges for water supplied to the poorer and more crowded dwellings, whilst it would reduce the charges on the larger houses. I do not feel myself able to give the pledge which my hon. Friend desires.

## CRETAN ASSEMBLY.

Mr. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office has yet received any official information as to the opening proceeding of the Convocation at Canea on the 13th instant; and, if not, what is the cause of the delay in respect to Dispatches concerning the meetings of this assembly?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. George Curzon, Lancashire, Southport): As stated in the answer given to the hon. Member yesterday, no official Dispatches have as yet been received respecting proceedings at the opening of the Assembly at Canea on the 13th instant. Any delay may not improbably be accounted for by the great pressure of work entailed on Her Majesty's Consul by events in Crete.

## ABDULLAH PASHA IN CRETE.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the recall of Abdullah Pasha has been determined upon by the Porte; and, if so, whether the representatives of the Powers will urge upon the Porte the extreme desirability of taking this step without further delay?

Mr. CURZON: Her Majesty's Government have not heard that the recall of Abdullah Pasha has been determined upon by the Porte. A recommendation has been addressed by the foreign representatives at Constantinople to the Porte that the command of the troops in Crete should be given to an officer of lower rank than Abdullah Pasha. The Porte replied that the number of troops now in Crete required a commander of high rank. We have also been informed that the appointment of Abdullah Pasha is only a temporary one, and that instructions have been sent to him to act in concert with the Vali, and not to interfere in the civil administration.

## EDUCATION FEE GRANT (SCOTLAND).

Mr. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, if he could state to the House how much Scotland has been short paid of the fee grant in each of the three financial years preceding the financial year 1895–6 on the footing that Scotland ought to have received eleven-eightieths of the fee grant paid to England during these years respectively?

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. Graham Murray, Buteshire): I have to refer the hon. Member to the Return granted on the 13th May 1896, on the Motion of the hon. Member for Londonderry, relating to the education fee grants (England, Scotland and Ireland), which contains the particulars he desires to know.

Mr. CALDWELL: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, whether the attention of the Scotch Office has been called to the fact that the fee grant on the Estimates for the current year for England is set down at £2,241,000, eleven-eightieths of which, being Scotland's proportion is £308,137, whilst on the Estimate for Scotland the Scotch fee grant is only set down at £303,609, being 10s. per head of the estimated number of children in average attendance in Scotland; whether he is aware that the Treasury in 1891 refused to allocate the fee grant payable to Scotland on the basis of Scotland's average attendance, and whether the fee grant would then and on that basis have amounted to more than eleven-eightieths of England; at whose suggestion was the change made in the Estimates for the current year; and whether the Scotch Office have made or intend making any representation to the Treasury for the continuance of the grant on the principle originally fixed?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: I am aware that the amount of the fee grant in the English and Scottish Estimates respectively is as stated in the Question of the hon. Member, and also that eleven-eightieths of the English grant would amount to the sum he names. I am also aware that in the earlier years, when the grant was allocated upon the eleven-eightieths basis a grant upon the basis of average attendance in Scotland would have been larger. The Scotch Education Department has always contended that average attendance was the proper basis of calculation, and, in view of the complicated questions which arose, the Treasury this year decided that the grant should hereafter be paid on that basis. I am not aware whether, when this decision was arrived at, the actual result was known. But in any case, the Scotch Education Department do not think that the fact of the result being adverse in a particular year renders it either expedient in principle or advantageous to Scotland to alter what is believed to be the sound basis of calculation.

## NILE EXPEDITION.

GENERAL McCALMONT (Antrim, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether the officers who were specially selected last April to join the Nile Expeditionary Force are paid from British or Egyptian Army funds; and if from the latter, why these officers have not been seconded?

*MR. BRODRICK: With two exceptions, these officers were seconded in the *Gazette* of the 21st instant, their seconding dating from two months after they went out to Egypt. The other two officers will be seconded in the next *Gazette*. As seconded officers they will be paid by the Egyptian Government.

## OPEN QUARRIES.

MR. THOMAS ELLIS (Merionethshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he can state how many open quarries employing more than 100 men have adopted the code of special rules drawn up by the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the working of open quarries, and how many have refused or neglected to adopt the code?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I cannot give the hon. Member these numbers, but I may say that the special rules have already been established in 738 quarries, and that this figure includes all, or nearly all, the large quarries in several districts. In other of the districts, arrangements for the adoption of the rules by the owners of the larger quarries are now far advanced, and I have good reason to hope that by the efforts of the Inspectors, whose attention I recently called to the matter, the model code of special rules may shortly be established in all quarries in the country where the operations are on a large scale, or where the conditions of work are dangerous.

## ROAD CONTRACTORS (COUNTY MONAGHAN).

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, what steps it is intended to take against the secretary to the Grand Jury of county Monaghan for making an illegal charge of 8d. per tender form to road contractors in the baronies of Farney and Cremorne, and to prevent an occurrence of this kind in the future?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have referred the papers in this case to the Local Government Board, whose auditor will inquire fully into the matter at his next audit of the accounts of the Grand Jury of Monaghan.

## POSTAL DELIVERY (MANCHESTER).

MR. C. E. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that on the 21st July the first delivery of letters in the London Road district of Manchester did not take place until shortly before 10 a.m., thus causing considerable inconvenience in that central and industrial quarter of the city; and, whether the explanation of the delay was that the letters had been delivered by an ex-Army pensioner postman, inexperienced in the duties of a postman?

MR. HANBURY: It is the fact that the first delivery of letters in the London Road district of Manchester on the 21st instant was not completed until shortly before 10 a.m. The delay was due to an Army Reserve postman, new to the walk, having been unavoidably placed on the delivery in the absence on leave of the regular postman. The delivery is now being completed by 8.30 a.m. I suppose that an Army pensioner, of course, requires time to learn his duties just as the ordinary civilian does.

## CHARGE OF BURGLARY (ST. HELENS).

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his attention has been called to the fact that a man named Hugh Beattie, who is in custody at St. Helens accused of a series of burglaries, has made a confession to the effect that 12 months ago he committed a burglary at Rainhill, for which a man named Brady was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment with hard labour; and, whether, he has ordered any inquiry to be made into Beattie's confession?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: No such confession has as yet reached the Home Office, nor has any representation of his innocence been made to me by Brady himself. A newspaper report, however, has been forwarded to me this morning, from which it would appear that certain articles found in Beattie's possession have been identified as part of the proceeds of the robbery of which Brady was convicted, and I am instituting inquiries accordingly into the matter.

## BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

MR. A. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether all the territories north of British Bechuanaland declared by Proclamation of the Crown or by Order in Council to be made under the protection of the British Crown, although not annexed by Proclamation or Order in Council or Act of the Imperial or Colonial Legislature, are included in and form part of the dominions of the Crown?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Question asked has been argued at the Bar of the Queen's Bench during the last few days, and as I do not know whether the Court has yet pronounced its opinion on the point, I must ask leave to refrain from expressing any opinion of my own.

## OLD HEAD OF KINSALE POST OFFICE.

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, when the late postmaster at the Old Head of Kinsale died, and how long the post office was carried on in his house after his death; and, when the post office was removed, and what the cause of the removal was?

MR. HANBURY: The late sub-postmaster, who was employed at Garrylucas, not at Old Head, died on 12th March last. The office was temporarily carried on by his daughter until the 22nd May, when it was removed to Old Head. The object of the removal was the convenience of the majority of the inhabitants, the bulk of the correspondence being for persons living beyond Garrylucas.

## SHIPWRIGHTS (ROYAL NAVY).

MR. EDWARD MORTON (Devonport): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, whether the Admiralty find a difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of naval shipwrights to join the Service; and, whether he is aware that no answer has yet been sent in reply to the petition of the shipwright apprentices, sent in on the last regular occasion for so doing, asking for better conditions on entering the Royal Navy!

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: No difficulty is experienced in obtaining the requisite number of naval shipwrights for the Service. The Dockyards were informed last month that the Admiralty were unable to make any concessions beyond those specified, and this answer applied equally to the shipwright apprentices, whose petitions were included in those from the workmen of the yards.

## PARACHUTE ACCIDENT (CARDIFF).

MR. DAVID THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his attention has been drawn to the fatal accident that occurred to a girl described as a lady parachutist, who was hired to perform at Cardiff last week; whether he is aware that the lady parachutist was a child of 14 who had had no previous experience as a balloonist; and, whether he has any control over these exhibitions; and, if not, whether he will introduce legislation to prevent such reckless trading with the lives of children?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I have at present only seen the reports that have appeared in the newspapers, and am not sufficiently acquainted with the facts to be able to say whether the case is one to which the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act applies. I have directed that inquiries shall be made at once with the view of seeing whether any action can be taken by me in the matter.

## SIR JACOBUS DE WET.

SIR ELLIS ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies (1) whether Sir Jacobus de Wet has been offered a pension of £300 a year; and (2) whether Sir Jacobus' long and valuable services, especially in connection with the annexation of Amatongaland, entitle him to more liberal consideration?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer to the first paragraph of the Question is in the affirmative. In reply to the second paragraph, I have to say that Sir Jacobus de Wet has been only six years in the service of the Imperial Government, that he took no part in bringing Amatongaland under British rule, and that he is not entitled under any law or regulation to any pension at all. The sum of £300 a year has been offered to him as an exceptional act of grace and favour, and is based on double the ordinary Civil Service scale.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) asked if it was a fact that Sir Jacobus de Wet had refused this pension?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir; I have not heard that. [*Laughter.*]

## RHODESIA RISING.

SIR ELLIS ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, in view of the serious character of the news from Rhodesia, Her Majesty's Government propose to send more troops to South Africa?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: In answer to this Question, I may be permitted to read the following telegrams. On June 22 I telegraphed to Lieutenant-General Goodenough:—

> "Having regard to further news from Mashonaland, will it be necessary to send from home any more troops? What is your opinion, after consulting with Colonel Sir F. Carrington?"

On June 26 I received a reply from General Goodenough in these terms:—

> "Referring to your telegram of 22nd June, No. 1, Carrington does not consider it necessary to send more troops from home at present, as we still have over 200 waiting for orders at Mafeking, and similar number mounted infantry at Cape Town, but suggests that mounted infantry or cavalry should be held in readiness. I concur. *Arab* sailed to-day for Beira with 14 officers, 238 men, two 7-pounder guns, two Maxims, and 145 horses, under the command of Alderson. Will pick up balance of horses at Durban. Due at Beira about 3rd July."

Again, on June 29 I telegraphed to General Goodenough:—

> "Presume that you clearly understand that Her Majesty's Government will send any forces which you think required by military exigencies of situation. In any case, we propose, on Imperial grounds, to fill up Cape Garrison from time to time as it may be depleted for service in Rhodesia."

On July 7 I further telegraphed:—

> "Three hundred and fifty mounted infantry are being held in readiness at Aldershot for service in South Africa; are you likely to want any of them? If not, Secretary of State for War would like to distribute them among the regiments to which they belong."

A reply was received from General Goodenough on July 18, as follows:—

> "Referring to your telegram of 7th July, No. 3, Carrington does not anticipate necessity of further reinforcements from home. I concur."

On July 24 I cabled again to General Goodenough on this subject as follows:—

> "Carrington's telegrams reporting recent military operations point to the conclusion that the work of stamping out rebellion may be tedious. Consider again in consultation with him whether still of opinion that forces sufficient, or whether further reinforcements are desirable, and report by telegram."

I received yesterday evening the following reply :—

> "27th July.—Your telegram of the 24th July referred to Carrington, who reports that he is no doubt hampered by want of more men for rapid and effectual crushing rebellion, but if more were sent up he could not feed them under existing difficulties as to transport. I myself do not anticipate any lightening of these difficulties. All efforts are now directed to getting up food stuffs before the rains, which come on in three or four months' time, offering increased impediments to movement. At the present time I have over 1,000 Imperial troops in Rhodesia, Macloutsie and Mafeking, and should keep them efficient at that number. Hitherto, happily, the waste has been small."

I think, under these circumstances, it would be wrong in Her Majesty's Government to force on the military commander in Rhodesia troops for whom they are not able to provide.

## BOTTLING BEER (FACTORY REGULATIONS).

**MR. WILLIAM ALLEN** (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he intends to make an order extending Section 53 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, to the women employed in bottling beer; and, if so, why it is now found necessary to allow overtime in a trade which has been carried on without overtime for 18 years?

**SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY**: Yes, Sir, I propose to make such an order; but it is not the case that this trade has been carried on hitherto without overtime. On the contrary, until quite recently the Factory Acts were not enforced at all in beer-bottling warehouses. Now that it is found that the Factory Acts are applicable, I propose to make an order which will allow overtime—but only on 30 days in the year, and under the other statutory restrictions.

## CUSTOMS OFFICES, DUBLIN.

**MR. J. L. CAREW** (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he has received from the Council of the Chamber of Commerce in Dublin a very influentially signed memorial by the merchants and traders of the city protesting against the proposal of the Board of Works to remove the Customs Offices from the Long Room in the Custom House to less convenient premises; and, whether he will instruct the Treasury Department to refuse to sanction any expenditure by the Board of Works in carrying out their scheme till the fullest consideration is given to the views of the parties who will be affected by the change?

**MR. HANBURY**: The Memorial has been received and referred to the Board of Works, who state that the Board of Inland Revenue, the Local Government Board, and the Board of Works, especially the first, all require additional accommodation. It is impossible to place additional buildings upon the site of the Custom House, and it has therefore become necessary to utilise any rooms not fully occupied. The Long Room is only occupied by some 14 clerks, and only half of them need necessarily to be placed there. The ground floor and the first floor on the quay side of the Customs part of the buildings are used solely by the Customs office-keeper and watchmen. The Long Room therefore (it is proposed) and the offices immediately adjoining it, will be given up, and accommodation be provided in the parts now used as residences. The plans have been approved by the Board of Customs. Their collector was willing, more than two years ago, to give up half the Long Room for use by other departments, but the structure of the room is such as to make a division of it difficult, while it is admirably adapted for the Legacy and Succession Duty branch of the Inland Revenue, to which it is proposed to allot it. Every attention will be given to representations on the subject from persons interested.

## INCIDENCE OF TAXATION INQUIRY.

**MR. C. HARRISON** (Plymouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, if the terms of the reference of the proposed Inquiry into the incidence of taxation will be made sufficiently wide to take into consideration the pending Bill in this House, entitled Land Values (Taxation by Local Authorities)?

**MR. CHAPLIN**: The terms of reference would enable the Commissioners to consider whether any class of property, real or personal, contributes equitably to taxation for the purposes referred to. I apprehend that they would not require the Commissioners to examine the proposals contained in any particular Bill, but I have no doubt that they are wide enough to enable them to do so in this case if they should deem it to be desirable.

### JUDICIAL TRUSTEES BILL.

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether the proposal to extend the Judicial Trustees Bill to Ireland, which is to be made in the House of Lords, is being made on the part of the Government; whether he is aware that when this Bill was before the House of Commons its promoters deliberately abstained from applying it to Ireland. knowing that otherwise it would be opposed by Irish Members, there being no necessity or demand for such a Bill in Ireland; and, whether the Government will, under the circumstances, persist in the proposal to extend the Bill to Ireland?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said he had not had time to consult the Lord Chancellor of Ireland on the subject of extending the Judicial Trustees Bill to Ireland, nor, perhaps, would it be proper for him to give an opinion with regard to a Bill now before the House of Lords. It would be sufficient, however, if he reminded the hon. Member of the undertaking he had already given that any Bill seriously objected to outside the relatively small category he had enumerated would not be proceeded with.

### IRISH AGRARIAN AND TREASON-FELONY PRISONERS.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he is prepared to recommend that the approaching celebration of the reign of Her Majesty the Queen as the longest in English history should be signalised by the granting of amnesty to all the prisoners confined in prisons in Ireland for agrarian and treason-felony offences arising out of the agrarian troubles in that country during the last fifteen years?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I answered a similar question I think the day before yesterday, and, perhaps, the hon. Gentleman will not require me to supplement the answer I then gave.

### QUARTER SESSIONS (LONDON).

Bill to make provisions relating to the offices of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions for the County of London, ordered to be brought in by Mr. James Stuart and Mr. Boulnois; presented accordingly, and read the First time; to be read a Second time upon Friday, and to be printed.—[Bill 328.]

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

### LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

As amended, considered.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) moved to insert, after Clause 12, the following Clause:—

#### AMENDMENT AS TO MORTGAGE OR SETTLEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

"The alienation to one person only of a holding by way of mortgage, or otherwise than for consideration in money or money's worth, shall be subject to the provisions of Sub-section 6 of Section 1 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, but shall not in other respects be deemed a sale within the meaning either of that section or of the 5th Sub-section of Section 8 of that Act."

He explained that this clause was the outcome of the consideration which he promised to give to the Amendment put down by the hon. Member for Cork. The proposal made was that the mortgage of a holding, or an assignment of it where no consideration passed, should not be a sale under the terms of Section 1 of the Land Act of 1881; in other words, the Government proposed in this case that the landlord was not to have the right of pre-emption. On the other hand, they proposed to retain to the landlord his right to veto a transference. Of course that veto must be exercised reasonably, and the reasonableness would be subject to the review of the Court. He hoped that this proposal would meet substantially the suggestion made by the hon. Member for Cork, and he thought it would relieve the tenant of whatever hardship existed in the case of family settlement or mortgage to which the hon. Gentleman had referred.

Clause read a First time.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) said he was obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for having brought up the clause, but he regretted to say that, as drawn, it would not apply in one case in a thousand of the cases which he had in his mind and to which he drew attention. His desire when he raised the question was to place a case of family settlement *inter vivos* in practically the same position as if it were being made by the will of a deceased person. When the owner of a farm was making his will he had power under the Land Act to leave the farm to one person, and then he went on to provide for the other members of his family, generally by a charge on the farm. The defect of the clause was the use of the words "money or money's worth." What the tenant did was to make over his farm to his eldest son; it was all the means he had, and he was bound to do something for the other members of his family. He provided for them, and the son's wife brought in a dowry which was handed over to the tenant. In 999 cases out of a thousand of those marriage assignments there was always money passing in connection with the transaction; but it was not a sale in the ordinary sense, nor did the money represent the value of the farm, it represented the dowry brought in by the wife on marriage. He asked the right hon. Gentleman, if he could not adopt his clause, to strike out the words "for consideration in money or money's worth."

Clause read a Second time.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said that he thought the object of the hon. Member for Cork would be met by the insertion after the word "mortgage" of the words "or family settlements, or where marriage forms a portion of the consideration." He moved the insertion of those words.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

MR. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) moved the following clause:—

INVESTMENTS OF GUARANTEE DEPOSITS.

"The Land Commission may invest guarantee deposits in stock or annuities issued by any municipal corporation in Ireland, which annuities, or the interest or dividend upon which stock, are secured upon rates or taxes levied by such municipal corporation under the authority of any Act of Parliament."

He explained that the object of the Amendment was to remedy partially an injustice under which small towns suffered. English and Irish trustees under the existing law could only invest in the stock of towns of over 50,000 inhabitants, but Scotch trustees could invest in the stock of any town in Great Britain, no matter how small. No trustee, however, could invest in the stock of Irish towns of under 50,000 inhabitants. That restriction, he thought, might well be done away with now.

*MR. SPEAKER: According to my recollection, there is nothing in the Bill about the powers of investment of trustees. This Amendment would appear to be more pertinent to a Trustee Investment Bill.

MR. VESEY KNOX pointed out that there was a good deal in the Bill about guarantee deposits, and that this Amendment only referred to the investment of such deposits.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that the Acts which this Act amended dealt with the investment of guarantee deposits in trustee stock.

*MR. SPEAKER said that if the Acts were to be read together as one Act the clause would be in order.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR hesitated to accept this Amendment, because it would alter essentially the present legal arrangements affecting the investment of trust funds, and because he did not like to make a special exception in favour of this guarantee stock. If they were to accept this Amendment they would be dealing piecemeal with a large and important question. He might point out to the hon. Member that under this Bill guarantee deposits would practically cease in future.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY invited the Chief Secretary to express his opinion upon the following clause standing in his (Mr. Healy's) name :—

"In the case of any holding to which the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, did not as unamended apply, but to which the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act apply, a tenancy subsisting at the time of the passing of this Act shall be deemed to be a present tenancy if the tenant was in occupation of the holding at the date of the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881."

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that he had resisted the principle of this Amendment throughout, and he did not think that he could consistently accept it in this particular form.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY said that he did not move the clause, but would raise the question later on. The hon. Member moved the following new clause :—

AMENDMENT OF 50 & 51 VIC., C. 33, S. 19.

"The powers conferred on judges of the Chancery Division of the High Court by the nineteenth section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, in cases where an absolute order for the sale of land has been made by any such judge, and a receiver has been appointed, shall apply to any case in which a receiver has been appointed over land by any of the said judges, and notwithstanding that a sale has been ordered hy some judge of the Chancery Division other than the Land Judge."

The object of the clause was to amend a beneficial provision of the Act of 1887. That provision, though general in its terms, had hitherto been restricted in its application to cases where a receiver had been appointed by a Judge of the Landed Estates Court. The provision, he was told, had been held not to apply to cases where the proceedings for sale were initiated in the Court of Chancery.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND said that in his judgment nothing could be clearer than the words of the section of the Act of 1887 referred to in the clause of the hon. Member. According to his construction of the section, this Amendment was not necessary.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved the following clause :—

AMENDMENT OF 51 & 52 VIC., C. 49, S. 2.

"In computing the amount advanced to any one purchaser under the provisions of the second section of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1888, an advance made to such purchaser as a trustee for another, or as personal representative of a deceased person, shall not be included, and for the purposes of the said section the advance in such cases shall be deemed to have been made to the person or persons personally interested in such advance."

He explained that his proposal was that an advance made to a person in a representative capacity should not be deemed to have been made to himself, and so operate to exclude him from getting any advance on his own account.

Clause read a First time.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR was willing to accept the clause with a slight alteration. He should propose to insert, after the words "shall not," the words "if in Ireland at the time that he was so acting."

Clause read a Second time.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would have any objection to the following words :—

"If as regards advances made after the passing of this Act, he shall declare at the time that he was so acting."

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir. I think those words will meet the case.

Amendment agreed to; clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved the following new clause :—

"On the conveyance or transfer on sale by the proprietor thereof of a holding which has been purchased under the Land Purchase Acts, the balance of the advance due to the Land Commission shall not be deemed to be part of the consideration in respect whereof the conveyance is chargeable with *ad valorem* duty under the Stamp Act, 1891."

He would give the right hon. Gentleman an example of how the law as it at present stood worked. He had lately in his professional capacity been engaged in carrying out a sale to a tenant-purchaser under the Purchase Bill. The consideration for that purchase was £200, upon which the stamp duty would have been £1 if the man had been purchasing an ordinary holding; but because it was what he might call a land-purchase holding, the annuity payable to the Land Commission was added to the £200, bringing it up to £1,000, and he had to pay £5 stamp duty, although this annuity was only substituted for the rent he had to pay before he purchased. This worked great hardships and imposed a tremendous tax upon these sales. It, in effect, quadrupled, or more than quadrupled, the stamp duty payable on the sale of a holding, simply because that holding was purchased under the Land Purchase Act.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) said the stamp duty on a conveyance was payable on the total value of the property conveyed. When a property subject to a mortgage was purchased, the mortgage was considered as included in the value of the property. The hon. Member thought that an exception should be made in the case of properties sold under the Land Purchase Act to a third person. If an exception were made in this case it would also have to be made in the case of property subject to an ordinary mortgage. The tenant bought the freehold title subject to the payment of certain instalments to the Land Commission, and if he had only to pay stamp duty on the purchase money he would obviously escape the payment of stamp duty on the freehold. He could not agree to the clause.

Clause negatived.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) moved the following clause :—

PRE-EMPTION BY LANDLORD.

"On any application to fix the fair rent of a holding, not subject to the Ulster Custom or any usage corresponding thereto, the court shall ascertain and record whether the landlord desires to acquire the holding in case of a sale; and, if the landlord does not so desire, then sub-section three of section one of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, shall not apply to such holding in case of a sale."

MR. EDWARD CARSON (Dublin University) said he hoped the Government would not accept the Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Oh, I withdraw it, Sir. That shows the spirit in which the landlords act.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved the following new clause :—

TOWN PARKS.

"In the construction of sub-section two of the fifty-eighth section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, the word "town" shall be construed to mean a town having a population according to the last census of at least two thousand."

He said it was quite true that the Bill in its present shape was exactly that in which the Government originally introduced the towns park section, and perhaps rather better; but they still left the question of what was a city or a town undefined. He trusted the Government would see their way to say that a city or town within the section must be of a reasonable size.

Clause read the First time.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the proposed limit was inserted in the Act of 1887, but he did not think that was a reasonable thing to do. It seemed to him that towns under 2,000 would very likely be those which would chiefly negative protection. Lord Justice Fitzgibbon, in his evidence before the Committee last Session, said it was impossible to arrive at a conclusion merely by looking at the number of inhabitants.

MR. KNOX contended that the only way in which things could be set right was by putting in some sort of population limit. He himself had an Amendment further down in which he proposed that no town should be deemed to be a town within the meaning of the 58th section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act 1881, or of the seventh section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act 1887, unless the town was within the district of an urban sanitary authority under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts. In some form or another the word "town" ought to be defined by the Bill.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said that he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would adopt some limit with regard to the population of a town, because there was great doubt as to what a town really was as distinguished from a village. The present want of definition led to a great deal of litigation, and the Irish tenants would be much dissatisfied if something were not done to define the meaning of the words "town park." The word "town" was a most elastic one, and if a definition of it were required anywhere it was in Ireland. A population of 2,000 appeared to him to be a sufficient limitation, and would not materially affect the landlords' right.

MR. T. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that perhaps he might be allowed to suggest to the right hon. Gentleman the use of the phrase "populous places" instead of "towns." He thought that the substitution of those words for the word "town" in the Bill would be a great improvement.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) said that if the suggestion of the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite were to be adopted, some inconveniences and absurdities might be expected to arise. For instance, if 2,000 population was fixed upon as the limit, a place having 1,999 inhabitants, which would not be a town, might find itself raised to the rank of a town because a lady in it happened to give birth to twins. ["Hear, hear!" *and* "Question!"] That showed the absurdity of the proposition of the hon. and learned Member.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that the conclusion that had been arrived at was that the population was the test of a place being a town. The law upon the point ought to be so clear that every man would know what his right was. A definition of a town should be given in a Bill so as to form a guide to the Judges, and that could be easily done by taking a population limit. There was nothing to prevent the landlord from regaining possession of a town park holding if the property was required for development. The theory on which the opposition to the clause was based was that the landlord should have the right by the eviction of those town park tenants to take the property of one man and hand it over to another. The supporters of the clause did not want to deprive the landlord of anything that equitably belonged to him. All they wanted to secure was that the property of town park tenants should not be taken away from them. Of all the land of Ireland, town parks were farmed the best; and on no land was there such a lavish expenditure of money, care, and nursing as on the town parks. It was, therefore most unjust to deny the protection of the Land Acts to those tenants.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.), said he rose not to discuss the vexed question of town parks, but, as a practical politician anxious for the smooth passage of the Bill, to appeal to the House not to plunge itself into the unfathomable bog of the town parks' controversy, but to accept the decision come to in the Committee stage that they should leave the question untouched.

Clause negatived.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) moved, after Clause 27, to insert the following clause:—

RESERVATIONS AS TO MINES, FISHERY, AND SPORTING RIGHTS TO THE STATE.

"No advance under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, shall be made to a tenant for the purpose of enabling him to purchase mines, fishery or sporting rights where such rights have been reserved to the landlord by order of the court when fixing a fair rent, but any such tenant shall have the right to have conveyed to him in the vesting order the fishery and sporting rights on payment of such amount to the court as the court may determine to be the fair value of such rights, and if not so purchased by such tenant the fishery and sporting rights of the holding shall vest in the Land Commission to be held or disposed of in such manner as the court may determine. All mines and mineral rights shall vest in the Land Commission.

Provided that all moneys received by the Land Commission on account of the sale or letting of mines, fishing or sporting rights shall be placed to the credit of the Guarantee Fund."

It would be admitted that mines, fisheries and game were amongst the elements of wealth of a country; and it was because those elements of wealth were becoming extinct in Ireland as land purchase developed, and were likely to be extinguished altogether, if something were not done to save them, that he moved his Amendment. The clause only dealt with rights which were absolutely excluded from the tenant by law when he had a fair rent fixed. They were reserved to the landlord. But when a purchase transaction was completed, those rights of mines, sporting and fishing were made over to the tenant. The result was that the sporting rights of an estate which were valuable when held by the landlord in the concrete or the whole, disappeared when the estate was divided amongst several tenant purchasers. The tenants were unable themselves to preserve those rights. In one case the tenants begged him to take over the sporting rights for nothing, but he could not do it because there was no power, and the result was that game was disappearing against the tenants' own wishes. He did not consider that the tenant should have handed over to him when he made a purchase valuable mining rights. He thought those rights should be retained by the State, so that when prosperity smiled on Ireland, and there was a demand for quarries and mines, the State would be possessed of a valuable property. Then, in regard to fishing rights, it happened that when an estate, through which a river flowed, was sold, the Land Commission vested in each tenant his own portion of the river. That river might be worth thousands of pounds if preserved, but the tenants could not preserve it, and the result was that a national property disappeared which, if preserved as a whole, would command a good round sum, would give employment, and would bring money into the district. He knew a river on an estate which might go into the Encumbered Estates Court. At the mouth of the river were two different tenants, one at each side. Forced sale would thus destroy the "several" fishery. With regard to sporting rights, there were gentlemen taking part in demonstrations and meetings to promote the attraction of capital to Ireland, and, above all, to draw attention to the great advantages offered by the natural capabilities of Ireland in regard to sport. But what was the use of all that if, on the other hand, they were killing all possibility of it? This was a matter which ought to have received more attention than it had. He admitted that they could not have sport without the co-operation, and the willing co-operation, of the tenants. Unless some such clause as he proposed were put in, every operation of purchase was doing an injury to Ireland, and was injuring the elements of wealth that exist.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR sympathised with what he conceived to be the object of his hon. Friend, but he did not think the proposals he had made were either practicable or consistent with provisions already in the Bill. He saw great difficulties in connection with the whole question of sporting rights, and in any case he did not think it was the proper way of dealing with them to vest those rights in the Land Commission, and depriving the landlord of any power of obtaining them for himself, and leaving the Land Commission to be the body which should be intrusted to let sporting rights all over Ireland.

Mr. P. J. POWER (Waterford, E.) expressed satisfaction that the hon. and gallant Gentleman had made use of one expression, namely, that you could not have sport in Ireland or any other country without the co-operation of the occupiers. ["Hear, hear!"] He regretted to say that was not a view always shared in in his part of Ireland, because he remembered very well it was not observed by the old Marquess of Waterford, for he had seen the Curraghmore Hunt followed by six or eight cartloads of police. The Irish were a sport-loving people, and if the landlords treated them with moderation the people would co-operate with them in promoting sport in that country.

*Mr. MICHAEL FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) suggested to the hon. Gentleman, the Member for Great Yarmouth, that he and his friends should offer inducements to the tenants to take part in sport, and give them a reasonable chance of showing they took an interest in it.

Clause negatived.

**Mr. J. J. CLANCY** (Dublin Co., N.) moved the following new clause :—

TENURE IN SEVERALTY.

"Where the estate of the immediate landlord for the time being is determined during the continuance of any tenancy from year to year, and two or more persons are entitled in severalty as superior landlords, each of such persons shall be deemed to be the immediate landlord to the tenant of the tenancy within the meaning of Section fifteen of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, in respect of the portion of the land to which he is entitled, and to have the rights and to be subject to the obligations of an immediate landlord as provided by said section; and the Land Commission shall, on application being made to them by any person interested, apportion the rent previously paid by the tenant between the different persons thenceforward entitled to the landlord's interest according to the value of the land held from each; and the tenancy shall thereupon be divided into two or more tenancies according to the portions of land to which each of such landlords is entitled: Provided that each of such tenancies shall continue to be subject to the same conditions in all respects (save as regards the amount of rent to be paid) as the previously existing tenancy was subject to under the immediate landlord prior to the determination of his estate."

**The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND** thought the Amendment might be accepted if the word "may" were substituted for "shall" in the passage "and the Land Commission shall," etc.; and if, after the words "persons interested" "other than the tenant" were inserted.

**Mr. CARSON** thought it very inconvenient that when a new clause was proposed they should not be told what the effect was. As far as he could see, this section was a great innovation on the law as it at present stands. If "any person interested" meant a person other than the tenant, who could that be but the landlord? The clause was quite unnecessary, because two different landlords owning different portions of the same property had already the right to apply for a separation of their interests.

**Mr. MAURICE HEALY** said that the clause was for the convenience of the landlords.

Clause read a Second time.

*Mr. Michael Flavin.*

**Mr. CLANCY** moved to omit the word "shall" and insert the word "may" in the phrase "the Land Commission shall."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. CLANCY** moved to insert, after the words "person interested," the words "other than the tenant."

Amendment agreed to; clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

**General HUGH McCALMONT** (Antrim, N.) moved the following new clause :—

JUDICIAL RENT MAY BE FIXED WHERE CONTRACT PROVIDES FOR RESUMPTION OF HOLDING BY THE LANDLORD.

"Where any holding is held under a contract of tenancy, empowering the landlord to resume the whole or any part thereof for the purpose of building or planting, a judicial rent may be fixed in respect thereof, without prejudice to the right of the landlord to resume possession at any time for the *bonâ fide* purposes aforesaid, upon the terms contained in the said contract of tenancy, or, if no terms are contained therein, upon such terms as a landlord can be authorised to resume a holding, or any part thereof, under Section 5 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881."

He said that this clause would do an act of justice to a large body of deserving tenants who had been excluded from the Act by what was almost an accident.

Clause read a First time.

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** hoped that the Government would not reject this Amendment, moved from their own Benches, after they had accepted so many from the right hon. Member for Dublin University to the detriment of the tenants. The clause would simply be removing a doubt in the law as to the position of the tenants concerned.

**Sir THOMAS LEA** (Londonderry, S.) said that there was a strong feeling in his constituency that the tenants concerned had been hardly used by being excluded almost accidentally.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** said that the particular case in the mind of the hon. and gallant Gentleman who moved the clause was a hard one; but the clause would have a general application.

However, as there had been no objection to the clause, the Government would accept it with some modification. If there was an express provision in the contract between the landlord and tenant that the landlord might resume, he did not think that in the resumption they should leave those terms to be decided under Section 5 of the Land Act of 1881. He proposed, therefore, to omit all the words after "therein" and to insert the words "on the terms that the rent of the holding be proportionately abated."

Clause read a Second time; Amendment agreed to; clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

Mr. DILLON moved the following clause:—

SHORTENING JUDICIAL TERM.

(1) Any statutory term beginning after the passing of this Act in a present tenancy shall be ten years, and in Sections four and eight of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, "ten" shall, as respects any such term, be substituted for "fifteen."

(2) Where a statutory term in the tenancy of a holding is current at the passing of this Act, an agreement or application to fix a fair rent for the holding may be made at any time after the expiration of the ninth year of that term, and the new judicial rent fixed by the court, and the further statutory term shall, notwithstanding that the statutory term current at the passing of this Act has not expired, begin on the gale day on which the tenth year of the current statutory term expires, or the gale day next after the application, whichever is latest.

He said that the Bill as it stood would not meet the cases of the great majority of the Irish tenantry. There was throughout Ireland a just demand for some instant relief and abatement of judicial rents. The conditions of agriculture had been disastrous for several years past to a large number of industrious tenants, who were unable to meet their present rents. The Chief Secretary had stated that there were many large estates in Ulster where considerable abatements had been given on the judicial rents, but the Nationalist Members had reason to believe that the full rent had been demanded and pressed for, and that the tenants for two years had been paying those rents to a large extent either out of their capital or out of borrowed money. This state of things could not last. A calculation had been made showing that the average price of 1883, compared with the price at present, represented a fall of 33 per cent. While that fall had affected all farm produce, labour had steadily increased in price between 30 and 40 per cent., and thus the unfortunate farmer was being squeezed between the upper and nether millstone. The Irish Members contended that the Land Commission, taken as a whole, was not staffed in favour of the tenants. On the contrary, as a whole it was favourable to the landlords, by tradition, association, and connection. In spite of that fact, however, judicial rents had been reduced on an average by about 30 per cent., and in a good many cases the reductions on the judicial rents fixed on the first occasion had reached over 50 per cent. This showed that the tenants had been compelled, under State-imposed conditions, for a considerable time to pay double the fair rent of their farms. The Chief Secretary said that if they threatened the judicial terms a flood of applications would ensue, choking the Courts, causing the number of Sub-Commissioners to be increased, and a lengthened period wherein to deal with the cases. But that was not a sufficient answer to their claim. If the tenants were suffering an injustice which was the result of mistakes made by Parliament and the administration of the law in Ireland, though the relief asked might cause the expenditure of a great deal of money, and an increase of staff in the Land Commission, the Government were bound to face the problem. If all rents fixed under the Act of 1881 were to remain as they were until the termination of the 15 years for which they were fixed, it would then be too late in many cases to afford the tenants any relief. The time when legislation could have benefited them would have passed away. To nine-tenths or four-fifths of the tenantry this Bill would give no relief. The argument that statutory contracts could not be broken could no longer be urged with any force, because the present Government had distinctly abandoned the principle of the inviolability of contract of the Bill of 1887.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that this subject had been threshed out in previous discussions, and that the hon. Member had not used a single new argument in support of his clause. As he had already said in Committee, he could not accept this proposal for a 10 years' term, believing that the change would be likely to increase the friction between the parties and to involve both them and the State in great expenditure. Even if this clause were adopted he doubted whether they would really get over the difficulty which formed the excuse for the second part of the hon. Member's proposal. One reason why the Government refused to adopt this suggestion was that they objected on principle, unless a case of absolute necessity could be proved, to interfere with contracts entered into under Parliamentary sanction. The hon. Member always spoke as if contracts were of no importance whatever in Ireland. It was perhaps not surprising that the hon. Member and his Friends should take that view after the legislative interferences of recent years, but in his judgment the fact that they did take that view was rather a reason for seeking to restore the state of things which it was a misfortune to have imperilled by the legislation of the past. He should, in any circumstances, be exceedingly reluctant to adopt a course which would have the effect of destroying the tenant's belief that when he entered into an agreement under Parliamentary sanction he would have to keep it. The hon. Member contended that, if the tenants whose rents had been paid under the Act of 1881 could come into Court again, they would obtain considerable reductions. But the risk of a fall in prices was a risk which had to be run, and the essential condition of the 15 years' term was that, whether prices rose or fell, the rent should remain the same. Hon. Members, therefore, should not talk of rents fixed as unjust or oppressive rents. The other objection of the Government to this clause was the administrative objection. The administrative difficulty was not one that could be neglected or overlooked. The hon. Member himself said that, if his proposals were adopted, four-fifths of the tenants of Ireland would at once apply to the Court. How would it be possible for the Court to deal with such a mass of applications?

Mr. DILLON explained that he had not said that four-fifths of the tenants would apply. His view was that, in regard to the number of applications, the Court would be in exactly the same position as the Land Court was in 1881.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said it was true that the tenants did not all apply to the Court in 1881, but, if their present condition was as parlous as the hon. Member made it out to be, it was clear that they would all apply now. The accumulation of arrears between 1881 and 1887 was enormous, and there were cases in which tenants were not able to get their rents fixed for two, three, and even four years after they applied. Exactly the same thing would happen now unless they appointed a perfect army of such Commissioners. He thought the House would agree that it would not be desirable to have the Commission flooded with applications, for the administrative machinery of the Land Acts would break down under the strain.

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.) said that it was rather late in the day to raise the question of the sacredness of contracts in connection with Irish land. The principles accepted in 1881 had been recognised by every Government since then, and adopted by the Party opposite in the legislation of 1887. At that time they heard language even more forcible than that used by the Chief Secretary that evening. It was said that contracts could not be disturbed, and that judicial rents could not be revised. He had recently read again Lord Salisbury's declaration on that subject. Speaking on the Second Reading of the Irish Land Bill of 1887, the Prime Minister said:—

> "A belief on the part of men that they will have to perform the promises they make is the very foundation of civilised society. You are laying your axe to the root of the fabric. There is nothing to prevent the tenantry from again acting at a future period for the purpose of again operating on your feelings by the means which they have used in times past. And you may depend upon it that such interference with judicial rents, attractive as it may seem for the moment, will be dearly paid for by the absolute loss of confidence which it will introduce into all transactions between man and man."

But what happened? A term of 15 years was established, and only five years of that term had expired when the Government found that they could not stand by it themselves. They found that they could not bind the landlords and tenants in Ireland by their hard-and-fast rule of a 15 years' term. They found it absolutely necessary to do that which they said would destroy the fabric of civilised society. That showed, in his opinion, that the 15 years' term was a great deal too long. Was there anyone who would say that in the last few years of that 15 years' term the relations between landlord and tenant had been satisfactorily regulated? He did not think even the Member for South Tyrone would say that, nor anyone else who knew anything of the condition of the country. When such a long term as 15 years was taken, a state of things which was not contemplated at the commencement of the term was certain to arise. It used to be the habit in England to have leases for 15 years; but was there a landlord now in England who would think of making, or a tenant who would think of taking, a lease for 15 years? He did not think there was an estate in England on which such a venture would be made. The experience in England, as well as in Ireland, showed that 15 years was too long a term to tie up either the landlord or the tenant. The late Government did propose to shorten the term, and certainly they should support the Amendment. [" Hear, hear ! "]

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) very much regretted that the Chief Secretary had not seen his way to accept the Amendment. He regretted it the more because the right hon. Gentleman's refusal was admittedly founded more on motives of expediency than on considerations of justice. The Irish tenant-farmers were to be left to struggle on as best they could under a burden which was acknowledged to be heavier than they ought to bear, simply because immediate relief would be troublesome and costly. The attitude of the Government would not have such serious consequences if the farmers were in a position to keep their heads above water, but that was not so. The majority of farmers in Munster whose rents were fixed between 1883 and 1887 would be quite unable to continue to pay them for the next three, or four, or five years. Many of them were, indeed, already on the border of bankruptcy. He was, of course, aware that nothing he could say was likely to alter the resolve of the Government, but he considered he would have failed in his duty if he did not enter an emphatic protest against that decision.

MR. J. A. RENTOUL (Down, E.) said that, as he supported the Amendment brought forward in Committee, he should of course support it now. It seemed to him to be as much desired by the Unionist tenant-farmers of Ulster as by the tenant farmers in the South of Ireland. He would have been glad if the Chief Secretary had given him such reasons against the Amendment as he could have put before his constituents as a justification for voting with the Government; but the reasons the right hon. Gentleman had given were not sufficient. They were, first, that it would be impossible to find a sufficient number of Land Commissioners, and that there would be a block in the Committee. Had the right hon. Gentleman been able to prove that, he would have thought it unanswerable from his point of view. Another reason given by the right hon. Gentleman was that short periods tended to unsettle men's minds and keep up constant friction; but he had been told by a gentleman in England that they had the strongest objection to let farms for more than 10 years. It would give immense satisfaction to the tenant-farmers if the Government accepted the Amendment. He was sure it would raise the Bill greatly in the estimation of the tenant-farmers.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said he was extremely glad to hear that the Chief Secretary did not intend to accept this proposal. The hon. Member for East Mayo said that the present condition of the tenants in Ireland was intolerable, that prices had fallen to such an extent that they could no longer pay their rent, but, as usual, the hon. Gentleman did not give the House a single figure to back up his assertion. On a former occasion he ventured to adduce some figures to the House, and those figures had never been disputed by any hon. Gentlemen on the other side. He was glad to hear his right hon. Friend say that he did not agree with hon. Gentleman opposite that all contracts in Ireland should be looked upon as valueless. Hon. Gentlemen opposite were always asking for justice—"Justice without contract" was their new war cry. Mr. Gladstone, at the time that the Irish Land Act was under discussion, had pointed out that the Irish landlords would be in a far better position after than before the passing of the Act, because they would be perfectly sure of getting their rents for 15 years. The tenant farmers in Ireland ought to be made to know that contracts would be enforced in that part of the British Empire, and that knowledge would be given them if this Amendment were rejected. A 15 instead of a 10 years' term gave the landlords something like breathing time. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. GEORGE MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid) said that he hoped that the Amendment would be accepted so that the lives of the Irish people might not be sacrificed to mere technicalities. The position of Irish tenant farmers was far worse than that of English agriculturists. If the relief proposed to be given to the Irish farmers were not given the farmers would be driven from their homes into the slums of the towns where they would remain for the rest of their lives. He hoped that the Government would reconsider their determination with regard to this clause.

*The SECRETARY to the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. Russell, Tyrone S.) said that this was probably the most difficult question which could occupy the attention of the House in connection with this Bill and he did not think that, as an Ulster Member, he ought to give a silent vote upon it. He quite admitted everything that had been said by hon. Members opposite with regard to the amount of feeling and excitement on the question, and especially in the province of Ulster. He admitted that to the full, and he thought that it would be exceedingly strange if that feeling did not exist. The farmers everywhere were suffering from bad times, and when men saw the reductions in rent on the second statutory period now commencing, of course those who had to wait for a year or two would be exceedingly obliged if they could get that reduction at once. He desired, as an Ulster Member, and representing a farming constituency in Tyrone, and not as a Member of the Government, to show what his action in the past had been upon this Question, and why he adhered to that action now. With regard to the retrospective part of the Amendment, if they looked at the proceedings of the Committee on the Land Act, they would find that the question was raised, and that Mr. Sexton moved a paragraph to this effect:—

"and in regard to the conclusions stated in paragraph 19 of the Chairman's draft Report, they consider it equitable to apply this abridgment of period to existing statutory terms."

What was the result of that? There was a long discussion in the Committee, and a Division took place. There voted for Mr. Sexton's Amendment Mr. Clancy, Mr. Dillon, and Mr. Sexton; and there voted against it Mr. Fuller, the Solicitor General, and himself. The vote was therefore equal, whereupon the Chairman, the right hon. Member for Montrose, declared himself with the "Noes"; that was to say that, upon the Committee which investigated the Land Acts in 1894, this proposal was rejected by the Committee, and was rejected by the deciding vote of the Chairman, the right hon. Member for Montrose.

Mr. DILLON: I recollect very distinctly that the Chairman said he was not prepared to commit himself on the question without further consideration.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said that he was reading from the actual records, which he had taken pains to study. ["Hear, hear!"] The vote which he gave was an open and a public one, and he saw no reason to recede one iota from it. After he had given that vote, he had been returned to that House. When the Bill of the right hon. Member for Montrose was introduced, he admitted that it was not in harmony with the decision of the Committee. The right hon. Gentleman's Bill contained a clause to the effect that the abridgment of the period should be retrospective, and that the statutory period should be shortened; and he (Mr. Russell) had then said that he could give no active support to that proposal. He would point out the reason he had for giving that vote and the vote he was about to give that night. Hon. Members opposite had made little of contracts. The view he had was this. Parliament, rightly or wrongly, had undertaken the duty of fixing fair rents in Ireland in 1881. The tenants went into Court, and the rents had been fixed for 15 years between the parties for that term. He submitted that it was unreasonable to ask that the Irish tenants should have all the advantages of State arbitration and also all the advantages of free contract. If the House interfered in the way proposed, what were they to do if a demand was made for an abatement of the land purchase instalments? He could easily see that they would find themselves in great difficulties if concessions of this kind were made. As to administrative difficulties, he looked with great apprehension upon the appointment of an army of temporary commissioners. They had now a body of men who were permanently in the service of the Crown doing this work. They were not responsible in the way temporary commissioners would be responsible; and he did not hesitate to say he would look with very great alarm to handing over the property of either landlord or tenant to an army of temporary commissioners to do what they liked with for the next two or three years. Whatever might be said of the pressure on the tenants, it was a lessening evil. In view of the serious danger of tampering with contracts in Ireland, and of great administrative difficulty arising, and in view of the fact that the evil was a lessening and not a growing one, he thought the House would be wise in accepting the proposal of the Government and resisting the Amendment. He frankly admitted that the demand in Ulster was stronger than it was in any other part of the country, and that he was going against the feeling of the great mass of the agricultural population. There were times, however, when a Member of the House should do what he thought right; and he, for the reasons he had given, should give his vote in support of the proposal of the Government.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL said that, as the representative of the constituency adjoining that of the hon. Member who had last spoken, he felt bound to say he agreed with the hon. Gentleman that a very strong feeling existed in Ulster in favour of a reduction of the statutory term. When the hon. Member rose, he fully expected he would have endorsed the Bill, which was read a Second time last year, and which Bill, if he was not very much mistaken, the hon. Gentleman told his constituents he adopted *in omnibus.*

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said the hon. and learned Gentleman had made that statement more than once. He had never said he accepted the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose Burghs in full. On the contrary, he placed on the Paper a series of Amendments, and upon the Bill *plus* those Amendments he went to his constituents.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL was sorry if he misrepresented the hon. Gentleman, but he would ask him if he put down an Amendment to the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose cutting down the term from 15 years to 10? He would be the last person in the House to try and do anything that would render more awkward than it otherwise was the position of the hon. Gentleman in reference to the Land Question, and therefore he would pass from the personal matter and deal with the question on its merits. It was clear that in the vast majority of cases rents could not be recast for four or five years. It was clear that the existing rents were higher than the tenants could pay, that farm produce was never at so low a price, or the interests of the tenants at such a low ebb. Under such circumstances, he put it to hon. Gentlemen opposite whether it would not be following the dictates of common honesty and morality to give the tenants an opportunity of having their rents recast. The Chief Secretary sought to draw a distinction between a statutory contract and a contract by lease or any other agreement. There was no distinction between such contracts. A statutory contract had no effect in preventing the rents being recast, as they knew the rents were in 1887, on account of a change in the times. A statutory contract had no effect with reference to estates purchased in the Landed Estates Court. They were aware that in the Incumbered Estates Court and the Landed Estates Court estates were conveyed subject to existing tenancies, and those tenancies were specified to be at certain rents. It was contrary to all experience to contend that a statutory contract could not be altered by a subsequent Act of Parliament. If there was any wish on the part of the right hon. Gentleman that this Measure should assume anything of a final character, he would grant this concession, because, so long as the 15 years' term existed, the tenants would never regard this as a settlement of their claim.

*SIR J. COLOMB said he rose in consequence of statements made on the other side, especially by the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, who had said that the existing rents were higher than the tenants could pay, and that the interests of the tenants were at a very low ebb. The true test was the price which the tenants got for their tenant-right interest. ["Hear, hear!"] This very year in Sligo a farm at a rent of £7 sold for £93—13 years' purchase. In Roscommon a farm at a rent of £21 was sold for £465—22 years' purchase. In Tipperary a farm rented at £2 10s. sold for £73. So he could go through all the counties in Ireland. When they spoke about low prices people thought of England, but let them compare the arable land in England and in Ireland and they would find a gigantic difference. Ireland was a stock-rearing country. In some of his own land he was better this year than last, and last year was better than the previous year. Complaint had been made by the Member for East Mayo that the tenants were between the upper and nether millstone of landlord and labourer, but the increase in the wages of the labourers was a proof of prosperity. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. T. M. HEALY said that the hon. Gentleman (Sir John Colomb) had informed the House that, as regarded the produce of his own land this year, he had obtained much better prices than last year, and that those prices were better than the year before, but in order to give the House an opportunity of estimating what his position was he should prefer to examine the Income Tax returns. If he had made an enormous income from the land as shown by the Income Tax returns, no doubt it would indicate a great increase in his prosperity, but unless the hon. Gentleman could assure him that he paid a much larger amount he should hesitate to accept his statement.

The hon. Member for South Tyrone (the Secretary to the Local Government Board) and other Gentlemen viewed the matter under discussion as one of contract. He (Mr. Healy) had on previous occasions endeavoured to show that there was no contract whatever, that it was a Parliamentary term forced upon them in their despite, and it showed the bad advice continually given to Ulster by those whom the Ulster men relied upon. Who wanted to make the term 31 years? In 1881 the Presbyterian Ministers of Ireland petitioned the House that the 15 years' term should be increased to 31 years. And who was in favour of making it 5 years? The Irish popular Party of that day. Who was it that was in favour of making it 10 years, and who put down an Amendment to the effect? The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury, now the Leader of the House. [*Opposition cheers.*] He regretted that the First Lord was not in his place, but he was a very ardent debater of the Bill at that time, and he put down a number of Amendments, one of which was to reduce the term to the very term which the hon. Member for Mayo now sought to enact, viz., 10 years. Having quoted from "Hansard" the speech of the right hon. Gentleman in favour of that Amendment, the hon. Member went on to say that it was true the Amendment chiefly affected the Ulster farmers, because they preferred to follow the advice given by those eminent Presbyterian divines and rejected the advice given them by the Land League, and because the House preferred to act upon the views presented for Ulster and against the view presented from the Nationalist Benches. If the House had accepted the latter view the term would have been shortened. Mr. A. M. Sullivan had an Amendment down to make the term five years, and that represented the view of the popular Party of the day. Might he use one argument that had not yet been presented to the House to-night? The hon. Member for South Tyrone had dealt with the case as if it only affected a 15 years' term; but the Ulster tenants who went into Court between 1881 and 1887 had not had a 15 years' term, but a 20, 21 and 22 years' term, because the tenants who went in after 1881 did not get their rents fixed, many of them, until 1885, 1886, or 1887, and it was not until 1887 that the law was altered making the rent date, not from the time of the decision, but from the sale day following the original notice. He thought the Government might have given some decision, when they were debating that point, as to how they were going to meet a thing against which no breach of contract could be alleged, the grievance which had sprung up from the congestion of the Land Courts at that date. The Amendment now before the House was one of great importance —["hear, hear!"]—affecting the whole body of Irish tenants, and certainly he was amazed that Irish landlords should commence an outcry against the Government for what they had given to the tenants, while forgetting what the Government were refusing. They were refusing the almost unanimous appeal of Irish Members of all sections to reduce the judicial term which would give relief to tens of thousands of tenants, and yet when the Government accepted some little scrappy Amendment that would admit a little group of one, two, or three tenants to a fair rent, or give them a little bit of bog, instantly the whole landlord party rose in insurrection against the Government. [*Cheers.*] If the Government resisted this Amendment he thought they were doing wrong, and bringing mischief upon themselves. Certainly it was a remarkable thing to observe, while the Government were maintaining that attitude, what was the attitude of the landlord party towards the Government because of the slight and slender Amendments which they had accepted? The hon. Member for Trinity College, in denouncing the Government for accepting those small Amendments, reminded him of the Princess in Hans Christian Andersen's "Fairy Tales," who, being of royal blood, through 15 eiderdown coverlets was able to feel the crumpling of a roseleaf underneath. [*Laughter.*] The Amendments accepted from the Irish Benches, were just like those crumpled rose leaves, which so seemed to affect the sensitive epidermis of the landlord party. [*Cheers and laughter.*] He said that the Government were doing wrong in not meeting the question boldly and adequately. It was no question of contract. The length of the term was forced upon them against the protests of the popular party of the day, and the House should remember that the Sub-Commissioners admitted that the rents were unfairly fixed, and that, in Scotland, owing to falling prices, the term was reduced to 7 years. On all those grounds he strongly urged that this was an Amendment the Government ought to accept. If they refused to accept it, they would have, in honour, to accept the Amendment reducing the term, at any rate, to that which would enable the tenant to count from the lodgment of his application, for before it was heard he often was waiting for tardy justice for five years during which he lay at the mercy of the landlord and of the sheriff, when he was seeking to get a fair rent fixed. When, in consequence, evictions took place, and future tenancies were created all over the land, as they had been, by the delay of the Courts in bringing justice to the door of the tenant, why should the Government now turn round and say, "Do not tamper with these future tenancies, they are the operations of the law," forgetting all the time that they were the operation of rack rents and delayed remedies. The Irish tenant had no legal *locus penitentiæ* when judgment in ejectment was served upon him beyond six months for redemption; the moment a registered letter was fired at him, that moment and for ever the present tenancy was gone, unless he could pay in full the unabated rent. Such were the tremendous consequences which attached to a breach of statutory conditions. He implored the Government to set aside the prejudices, raised on the plea of contract, to induce them to refuse this Amendment, and to bring to the large body of the tenants, as had been admitted by the Member for South Tyrone, something of comfort and something of security in their holdings. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. DUNBAR BARTON (Armagh, Mid) said he would ask his right hon. Friend to consider the special case of those tenants whose term of 15 years had been prolonged owing to the congestion of the Land Courts in the earlier years of the statutory period. He was told that in a particular district in his own constituency these tenants really had not a 15, but a 17 or 18 years' term simply owing to the congestion in the Land Courts during the first two or three years after the passing of the Land Act of 1881. He felt sure that many of his constituents would like him to support this Amendment. But he felt that his right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary had had a most difficult task to perform; he had refused to yield to the landlords on many most important points, and he had refused to yield to the representatives of the tenants on other important points, and he was plainly trying to steer a just and fair course between landlord and tenant. Therefore, he felt bound to support his right hon. Friend and the Government, who were honestly trying to pass a fair Bill. He would, however, ask them to consider the case of those tenants the fixing of whose rent was postponed owing to the congestion in the Land Courts to which he had referred.

Mr. DENIS KILBRIDE (Galway, N.) cited figures to show that on every occasion when judicial rent-holders, whose rents were fixed in 1881, had had liberty to appeal to the Courts reductions had followed of from 25 to 40 per cent. He had come to the conclusion, therefore, that the real reason why the Government refused to accept this Amendment was not because they wished to steer on an even keel between landlord and tenant, but because they wished to safeguard the property of the landlord as long as they could. The tenant farmers of South Tyrone, as well as of the west of Ireland, would believe that that was the real reason of the Government for their refusal. The hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh said that they did not point out where the great fall in prices had been since 1887, but he must be aware that on all the smaller holdings in Ireland rent was made largely out of the sale of pigs, and that the price of pigs since 1887 had fallen 30 per cent.

Colonel SAUNDERSON: Would the hon. Member give the figures?

Mr. KILBRIDE said the present price was about 32s. per cwt. for the best class in any of the towns of the constituency which the hon. and gallant Member represented. It was acknowledged that the rents up to 1887 were fixed on the basis of the average prices of the 15 years previous to the passing of the Act, and the average prices of the products that went to make up the rent of the small farmers had fallen very much since 1887. Nobody denied that prices had fallen 30 per cent.

Colonel SAUNDERSON: I deny it.

Mr. KILBRIDE maintained that he had not exaggerated the fall in prices, and it was apparent that under these circumstances rent had almost disappeared. The refusal of the Government was due to the unfortunate fact that the Irish tenant farmers in 1896 were not as united and determined in their own interests as they were in 1886. If the Chief Secretary refused the Amendment, the fact would prove to the Irish tenant-farmer that as long as he remained disunited and squabbled over differences of procedure in politics their best interests would be neglected by the House, and if they were, he, as an Irish tenant-farmer would heartily say, "Serve them right."

Mr. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.), is supporting the Amendment, said the outlook for the Irish tenant for the next 10 years was a dark one. But for the money they received from their children in America they would be unable to pay their rents. "Breach of contract" had been talked of. If there was an agitation in Ireland such as they had in 1887 there would be little talk of breach of contract. The Government would soon sue for peace with the people of Ireland.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.) said that as a representative of an agricultural constituency, he felt that the Government had made a mistake which they would repent before many years. It was quite true that many tenants would not be able to make ends meet until the time arrived when they could get fair rents fixed. Many would have to go to the States of America as the poor people of Ireland had had to do from time to time.

*MR. MICHAEL FLAVIN said he wished briefly to give a few instances of the fall of agricultural prices in Ireland. The average price of wheat between 1886 and 1895 was 16s. 8d. per cwt. ; the price now in the south did not average 7s. per cwt. The average price of oats from 1886 to 1895 had been 11s. 8d. ; the present price was not 5s. 6d. Barley was 13s. 6d. per cwt. ; now, to his own knowledge, it was not over 6s. per cwt. The Irish tenant was expected to pay the rents he paid 10, 12, and 16 years ago when prices were so much higher and things so much better. The rents paid for land six or seven years ago were now impossible. Not only had the prices of agricultural produce fallen, but the produce of the land is a drug on the market. For instance, barley had not been a marketable article for the last two years Barley grown in the south, where the tenants were asked to pay exorbitant rents, had been sold at as low as 7d. per stone. Shopkeepers who had had to hold it for two years could not even sell it at cost price.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.) heartily joined with what had been said on his side of the House with regard to this important Amendment, and could only express his regret that the right hon Gentleman had not seen his way to accept it instead of climbing down in face of the opposition of the landlords' friends.

MR. HORACE PLUNKETT (Dublin Co., S.) thought the Government were quite right in resisting the Amendment, but considered they might make a concession in the direction indicated by the hon. Member for North Louth, and allow the tenants—the fixing of whose rents were delayed by the overcrowding of the Land Courts in former years—to make their judicial rents to date from the time of their application, or, at any rate, from a reasonable period after the date of their application. [" Hear, hear ! "] There was a strong ground for such a course, for unquestionably the landlords did get some advantage at that time from a delay which was not contemplated when the Act was passed. It was really a small concession to make, and he thought it would be a fair compromise upon the Amendment of the hon. Member for East Mayo.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause be read a Second time."

The House divided:—Ayes, 101 ; Noes, 172.—(Division List, No. 353.)

MR. DILLON moved the following new clause, which was read a First time:—

JUDICIAL TERM IN CASES OF AGREEMENTS.

> "In the case of a tenant who applied to the court under Section 66 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, on the first occasion on which it sat, to have a fair rent fixed, and who, since making that application, has signed an agreement under Sub-section 6 of Section 8 of the said Act, the statutory term so created shall, for the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent, be held to date from the day on which the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, came into force."

He said the clause dealt with cases of very great hardship and injustice. He would illustrate by giving the case of a body of tenants which came under his notice—the tenants of Lord Ormathwaite. The tenants had gone into Court relying on the 60th Section of the Act of 1881, and were accordingly first occasion tenants. Considerable delay having arisen in getting their rents fixed, they signed agreements with the landlord fixing the rents out of Court. Neither the landlord nor the tenants who were parties to this agreement, were aware of the fact that by signing this agreement they lost their privileges as first occasion tenants, and that their period only dated from the date on which the agreement was signed. Some of these tenants came into Court the other day in order to have fair rents fixed for a second judicial term, but they were dismissed because of having signed the agreement, though the landlord did not take this point against them. Lord Ormathwaite wrote a letter stating that he considered it to be a hardship, and that he would be glad if any legislation could be passed which would take this obstacle from their path and place them in the same position that they would have occupied if they had gone in and had their rent fixed.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said this proposed new clause must, he thought, be discussed with some reference to the Amendment down on the Paper in the name of the hon. and learned Member for Louth, which was somewhat analogous to it. Under the law as it stood these tenants, who made application on the first occasion when the Court sat, were entitled to date the judicial term, when it came to be fixed from the gale day after the application. There was a great block in the Court after that, and considerable delay in fixing the rents, and there were no doubt cases where the tenants who had made applications on the first occasion were deprived of the advantage by the voluntary arrangements they made with their landlords. At the same time, he was rather surprised to hear the hon. Member say that neither they nor the landlord knew that in doing so they would be deprived of the advantage they would have been entitled to in the ordinary course of events. He turned for a moment to the case which the hon. and learned Member for Louth sought to deal with. He had already stated that these first applications entitled the tenant to date the statutory term from the gale day after the application. Under the Act of 1887, a similar rule was made for all tenants, and what the hon. and learned Member sought practicably was to make the Act of 1887 retrospective as regarded those tenants who did not apply in the first instance, but who applied before the Act of 1887. No doubt these tenants, and also the tenants who would be affected by the Amendment of the hon. Member for East Mayo, were in a rather curious position, and he had a good deal of sympathy with them. But he must remind the House that this matter was thoroughly discussed on the Committee stage, and he then said he would consider whether this Amendment and the analogous one standing in the name of the hon. and learned Member for Louth should not be accepted if the procedure was so far expedited as to do away with the administrative difficulty which he foresaw would arise if the Amendments were accepted without such expedition. As the House knew, they were, unfortunately, obliged to withdraw the procedure clauses, and he was afraid that the effect of the changes they had made in the Bill would be, so far from expediting the procedure, to tend to make it slower than it was at the present time, for in the clause that now stood first in the Bill they had required the Court to ascertain and to state a number of particulars which were not required under previous Acts. Under these circumstances he was afraid it was not in his power to accept either the present Amendment or the one of the hon. and learned Member for Louth. But he might just mention that they had introduced a clause into the Bill at the instance of the hon. and learned Member which entitled landlords and tenants who might wish to do so at any time to abridge their statutory term and arrive, by agreement, at a fresh term and a fresh fair rent. He thought that provision would meet the case of the tenants contemplated both by the hon. Member for East Mayo and the hon. and learned Member for Louth. He thought that provision would meet the case of Lord Ormathwaite and his tenants, because they could under the clause, if they desired to do so, come in and arrange for the fixing of a fair rent for a second term, and that it would go a long way to meet the cases of those tenants whom the hon. and learned Member for Louth wished to come in.

Mr. T. M. HEALY, who expressed his grief and disappointment with the statement of the right hon. Gentleman, said he had opposed the clause entirely on the fact that, in his opinion, procedure had not been expedited in such a way as to justify him in accepting it. What was the procedure under this Bill? It abolished Court hearings, but the right hon. Gentleman seemed to forget that Court hearings in nine-tenths of the cases occupied no time at all, and that so far as his clause went it would not have shortened the process by one hour. The valuation was the tedious process, and by the right hon. Gentleman's clause that process could not have been abridged but would have been extended. He believed the argument that the rejection of the procedure clause involved the rejection of these Amendments was not put forward by the right hon. Gentleman himself, but by those who advised him. It was a most flimsy argument. The right hon. Gentleman had suggested that his clause met the difficulty, but his clause was optional, and being optional it did not touch the question. To suggest that the Irish landlords would allow those tenants to go into Court by agreement years sooner than they would otherwise be able to do was absurd. Now, in regard to this matter, Irish Members were not a little disappointed. It proved that hon. Members should never give up the powers of influencing Governments when in Committee. When this question was brought forward in Committee the Government asked for time to consider it, and said they would deal with it on the Report stage. The Irish Members gave way, and what was the result? Why, that they now absolutely got nothing at all. That was scarcely fair. It should be remembered that the class of tenants referred to were largely Ulster tenants—men who were kept waiting for more than five years at the gates of justice to get a fair rent fixed. Why? Simply because the Treasury would not appoint a sufficient number of sub-Commissioners to hear their cases, and in consequence of that the Government now denied them justice, and would impose on them not even a 15 years', but a 21 years' term. He protested against the policy of the Government in this matter as wholly unreasonable, and he would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Trinity College that he might here have his revenge on the Government. [MR. CARSON: "I wish I could."] [*Laughter.*] The right hon. Gentleman must know from professional experience how bitterly hard was the grievance of those tenants, who were kept year after year from getting a fair rent fixed, and many of whom were evicted and lost their present tenancies. Yet the Government, who had an opportunity of doing an act of bare justice to these men, refused to do so on grounds utterly insufficient. He could not understand the position taken by the Government in this matter. The Amendment was in accord with the policy adopted in the Act of 1887—a policy which was approved by both Houses. Then what could be the reason why the Government refused to accept the Amendment. If the reason was the glutting or the congestion of the Courts, he could only say that the tenants would be quite willing to take their chance of waiting to get their rents fixed if they knew that the fixing of the rent was dated from the day of application. ["Hear, hear!"] The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Trinity College, who had fought his corner well for the landlords, must know the heavy disabilities under which the tenants referred to suffered through no fault of their own, and he now appealed to him, under the circumstances, to support his countrymen in the effort to remove a great grievance.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said the Amendment was moved with the object of protecting a tenant from suffering, or from injustice, because he had made an agreement with his landlord. That was really the effect of the Amendment. Under the Act of 1881, tenants got special privileges if they went into Court on the first occasion on which it sat. Thirty or forty thousand did so; but a number of tenants who could not get their cases heard came to an agreement with their landlords, and the position the Government had really taken up was that, therefore, those men were to be punished. Surely, the right hon. Gentleman could not be aware that if those tenants had fought their landlords in the Land Courts they would have had no necessity for seeking the benefit of this Amendment—that if they had held their landlords at arm's length, and insisted on the Court deciding between them, they would have secured the right of which they had been deprived. To deny the tenants, under such circumstances, the right of going into Court for several years to come to have a fair rent fixed was a gross injustice. The clause only applied to tenants who went into Court to have fair rents fixed, and who afterwards agreed with their landlords as to the fixing of the rents. It was a term of all the agreements that the rents should run back to the time the notice was served. The rents had run for 15 years. [The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: "By agreement!"] Yes; and, therefore, he trusted the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the matter.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he understood the hon. Gentleman wished to confine the operation of the clause to cases where, evidently by the terms of the agreements, landlords and tenants intended the term should end in 15 years dating from the time of the application. [MR. M. HEALY: "Hear, hear!"] Then he did not see what objection there was to the clause. ["Hear!"]

Clause read a Second time.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said an Amendment to the clause would be necessary, and

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND rose to suggest an Amendment.

*MR. SPEAKER said he would give the right hon. Gentleman time to prepare the Amendment, and left the Chair for the customary interval.

On the return of MR. SPEAKER, after the usual interval,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND moved, after the word "shall" to insert the words, "where the judicial rent has been received as having accrued due from the gale day succeeding the date cf the application."

Amendment agreed to; clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved the following clause:—

CERTAIN REINSTATED TENANTS TO BE PRESENT TENANTS.

"Where, prior to the commencement of this Act, a tenant holding under a present tenancy was evicted from his holding, and such tenant or his personal representative was afterwards reinstated in the possession of the holding, the tenancy created on such reinstatement shall be deemed to be a present tenancy unless the contract of tenancy expressly provides otherwise."

This clause, he said, recognised as the starting-point from which the tenancy should begin the date given in the Act of 1881, and did not propose to alter that date. There were an enormous number of these cases, the number having been greatly multiplied under Section seven of the Act of 1887. Some of the tenants who were served with eviction notices and reinstated were, he had no doubt, reinstated in express terms as under a present tenancy; but these transactions were managed in an informal way. All that the clause proposed to do was to give legal sanction to what was unquestionably the intention of the parties in all these cases.

Clause read a First time.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he should entirely agree with the hon. Member if he believed that, where the contract did not expressly so provide, it was the intention of the parties in every case that the tenant should be reinstated as under a present tenancy. But he could not believe that that was always the case, or that that could always be taken to be the intention of the parties. Under the Bill, it would be possible for the landlord and tenant to agree to make the present tenancy the regular course. He thought, therefore, it would be unreasonable to accept the Amendment.

Question, "That the Clause be read a second time," put, and negatived.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved the following new clause, which was read a First time:—

CERTAIN TENANCIES TO BE PRESENT TRNANCIES.

"Where at any time between the twenty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, and the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three, a holding was held by a tenant under a letting made by a judge or master of the Supreme Court or the Lord Chancellor, and the tenant or his personal representative, on the determination of such letting by the cesser of the control of such judge, master, or Lord Chancellor, continued to be the tenant of the holding, and has so continued until the commencement of this Act, the tenancy existing in such holding at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be a present tenancy unless the contract under which the same was created expressly provides otherwise."

He pointed out that the argument used in Committee was to this effect—that it would be unjust, where a letting was treated by the Court of Chancery, to thrust the letting on parties who had no part in creating the tenancy. He accepted that doctrine for the purposes of this clause; but all he asked was that where the parties themselves, of their own volition, deliberately recognised the tenancy, then the effect of the Act of 1881 should not be a ground for saying that there was no present tenancy.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that the Government could not accept the clause, because it would be unjust to the person entitled, after the determination of the cause or the litigation, to fix upon him as a present tenant anyone who might be found in possession of the holding, who had no claim upon him, and whom he was not bound to recognise.

Clause negatived.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved the following new clause:—

REPEAL OF 44 & 45 VICT., c. 49, s. 8, s.s. 5.

"The fifth sub-section of Section eight of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, is hereby repealed."

The clause was, he said, designed to facilitate and expedite the proceedings of the Sub-Commissioners. The sub-section had a direct connection with the right of preemption, but the landlord's right of preemption remained after this sub-section was repealed. At the beginning of the statutory term this sub-section enabled the landlord to ask the Court to fix the price at which he might buy the tenancy at any time during the term. But in the course of 15 years the value of the tenancy must enormously change and vary. The time to fix the price was when the right of preemption was exercised. If the work of the Sub-Commissioners was to be facilitated, some stop must be put to the absurd process of having the selling value of the tenancy fixed without any regard as to whether any person wished to sell or buy it at all.

*SIR J. COLOMB was inclined to think that the clause would operate against the tenant. If, on the fair-rent application the saleable value was determined by the Land Commission, and if the rent was going to decline, it was obvious that the earlier the period the greater would be the advantage to the tenant, because at the end of 14 years, the rent having declined, the landlord was bound to pay the price fixed by the Court several years previously. He hoped that the Government would not give way on the clause. He was not merely a landlord. He was a middleman, a present tenant, a future tenant, and a tenant outside the Act. [*Laughter.*] His interest in the last capacity exceeded all his other interests; and he was voting on this question in the general interests of Ireland. If the Land Commission could fix a fair rent they could fix the saleable value; and he hoped the Government would not give way.

MR. FLYNN urged that the hon. Gentleman ought to support the Amendment if he were a tenant; because, the knowledge that the holding would never get beyond the specified value was a bar to improvement by the tenant.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that Judge O'Hagan, speaking on 3rd May 1883, used these words:—

> "With all respect to the Legislature, to put upon an unfortunate Commissioner the task of estimating the value of land in places where land has not been in the habit of being set up to be sold, and where no experience can be brought to bear upon it, was one of the most absurd tasks ever put upon man."

Outside Ulster there was no means of determining what the tenant-right was before 1881. It was to be hoped that the Government would accept the Amendment.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that he had always entirely failed to understand what earthly good the landlord derived from the fixing of a specified value. The Government would be prepared to accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to; Clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

MR. FLYNN moved the following new clause:—

PRESENT TENANCIES.

"(1) Where a tenancy in a holding began not less than one year next before the tenant thereof applies to have a fair rent fixed for the holding, and the tenant so applying either has at any time, whether before or after the passing of this Act, been a present tenant of that holding or of the substantial part thereof, or was, before the twenty-third day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, a tenant of that holding or the substantial part thereof, the tenancy shall be a present tenancy within the meaning of the Land Law Acts, and the application shall be deemed to have been made by a present tenant.

(2) If at any time the landlord and tenant so agree, a future tenancy shall become a present tenancy within the meaning of the Land Law Acts."

He said that if this Bill were to have good results its scope ought to be as wide as possible, and many thousands of tenants, who were now future tenants, would, without this clause, be outside the Bill. In the present year no less than 2,238 present tenants had been converted into future tenants, and altogether quite 40,000 present tenancies had been destroyed, many because the fair rents could not be fixed in time. Then, the 7th Section of the Act of 1887 had worked more actual wrong to the tenants than the most barbarous evictions. He knew this was a drastic Amendment, but they should be willing to accept any reaasonable modification of it, or any material rearrangement of it, so long as these future tenancies were relieved from the hopeless condition in which they were at present. In the interests of peace, harmony, and good government, he hoped the Government would give some relief to a deserving body of men, a number of whom had been suffering cruel wrong.

Mr. DILLON stated that the effect of the 7th Clause of the Act of 1887 had been this—that by the receipt of a registered letter hundreds and thousands of tenants had lost all their rights under the Land Acts without knowing what had happened. Indeed, for a considerable period after the letter had reached them they had not the least idea of the disastrous consequences that had been inflicted upon them by a registered letter. Country people could not understand all the subtleties of an Act of Parliament, and he held that the old system of the Sheriff marching out with a force of constabulary to deprive the tenant of the right of occupation of his home was a more wholesome system, painful though it was, because it gave the man full warning of the change wrought in his condition. Under the operation of the clause in question 30,000 or 40,000 tenants had been driven outside the pale of the law and were now future tenants at the mercy of the landlords, and just in the same position as if no Land Act had ever been passed at all. He received a letter the other day on behalf of 300 future tenants in one parish alone. He warned the Government that no Bill could settle the Irish Land Question which did not take into account the position of the future tenants, those tenants, most of them, being in their present position owing to the failure of the Government in the Act of 1887 to provide a remedy for a grievance which they admitted to exist.

*Sir J. COLOMB said he was not going to ask the Government not to give way on this matter, because that was certain to produce a decision of the Government to give way. [*Nationalist cheers.*] But he was going, as an English Member representing an English constituency, to explain to English Members what was the difference between a present and a future tenant. The Act of 1881 created every tenant in possession a present tenant, and as such he had a right to get his rent fixed and a right to his improvements, but it was conditional on this, that when he had his rent fixed he paid it. He had been a Member of an East London constituency from 1886 to 1892, and had seen more evictions in East London during that period than he had seen in all his life in Ireland.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Did the English tenants build the houses they were evicted out of ? [*Nationalist cheers.*]

*Sir J. COLOMB hoped that no heat would be imported into the discussion, as they had up to this got on amicably together. [*Laughter.*] He would not ask the Government whether or not they were going to accept the Amendment, for they had done so many extraordinary things that one was never sure of them. But when he told English Members that future tenants were men who had lost their positions as present tenants, with fair rents fixed by the Land Courts, because they had not paid those rents, he felt sure that English Members would not support the Government if they gave way.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said his hon. Friend need not be afraid; the Government were not going to give way on the point. If a tenant were evicted from a holding he might be replaced as a present tenant if the landlord so desired;

but if the landlord replaced the tenant as a future tenant, there could be no justification for the Government stepping in and saying that all future tenants should be present tenants. He believed that if the clause were passed it would be an incentive to landlords not to put back evicted tenants as they could only put them back as present tenants, but to let the holdings instead to other men as future tenants.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL said that a clause similar to the one now under consideration was inserted after great deliberation in the Land Bill of the late Liberal Government, which passed its Second Reading last year. He thought the suggestion of the Chief Secretary that the effect of the clause would be to prevent the landlords from reinstating evicted tenants was rather strained. The meaning of the clause was that a man who had lost the status of a present tenant by eviction should be placed in the position of the present tenant again and have a fair rent fixed. It was unfortunate that the Bill of last year had not passed into law. If it had passed there would be some hope that the vexed question of landlord and tenant in Ireland would be settled for half a century; but they would be as badly off as ever after the present Bill had become the law

MR. JASPER TULLY (Leitrim, S.) said the unfortunate condition of the future tenants was exemplified by the condition of the Madden tenants in the constituency he represented. These tenants, about 100 in number, owed in 1881 a couple of years' rent as a result of the great distress of the preceding years. When the Land Act of 1881 was passed the landlord came down on them, served them with ejectments, and thus deprived them of their status as tenants, which prevented them from going into the Land Court to have fair rents fixed. They were then compelled to accept agreements constituting them future tenants, and making their arrears a debt to be paid off in instalments. This landlord was, therefore, better off than landlords who treated their tenants with more wisdom and less harshness. It was not the good and generous landlords who would be touched by the clause, but the bad landlords, who were a constant source of trouble in Ireland.

MR. SMITH-BARRY (Hunts, Huntingdon) said the condition of the future tenants had been much exaggerated. A few cases which had occurred on his own estate in Tipperary would show that future tenants were in as good a position as the present tenants. In one case a man paid down £600 for the sake of going into a farm as a future tenant; in another case between £300 and £400, and in a third case £500, were paid for the interest in farms held under future tenancies.

COLONEL WARING (Down, N.) gave instances of present tenants on his own estate who had gained a distinct advantage by being converted into future tenants.

MR. KILBRIDE explained that the class of future tenants was largely composed of men who were obliged to take advantage of the Arrears Act of 1882 These tenants found themselves in the position of owing one year's rent after they had taken advantage of the Act, and that liability debarred them from benefiting under the Land Act of 1881. Of course as had been shown, there were cases of men who had voluntarily consented to occupy the position of future tenants, and he admitted that as far as they were concerned, this clause perhaps went a little too far. It might be fair to exclude them from the operation of the clause until they should have been in possession of their holdings for five years. It should not be forgotten that the tenants who took advantage of the Arrears Act of 1882 were men who had been grievously rack-rented. It was computed that there were 40,000 future tenants in Ireland at present, and the process of converting present tenants into future tenants was proceeding at the rate of 3,000 a year. In a very short time a very large percentage of the total number of tenant-farmers in Ireland would have been converted into future tenants. It was to the advantage of the landlord to make his tenants future tenants, for he thus deprived them of the benefits of the Land Acts, and was able to extract from them the whole value of the produce of the soil. The hardship of the condition of a future tenant was chiefly felt in the poor districts of South Antrim, Mayo, and Galway. To large numbers of small tenants in the congested districts of the

West, this Bill as it stood would not apply. If nothing was done for them he feared that these men might be driven to agitate in order to force their grievances on the attention of the House.

Motion made and Question put, "That the clause be read a Second time."

The House divided:—Ayes, 97; Noes, 189.—(Division List, No. 354.)

The following clause stood upon the Paper in the name of Sir Thomas Lea:—

### ADVANCES TO TENANTS.

"Whereas under the Irish Church Act, 1869, the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, and the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1872, advances to tenants were authorised for such proportions of the money required for the purchase of their holdings, and upon such conditions and terms as therein specified, and whereas, notwithstanding that such terms and conditions were altered and modified by the Irish Land Act, 1887, in certain cases, and to the extent therein mentioned, there still remains an inequality which presses severely and injuriously on the purchasers under those earlier Acts as compared with the advantages provided under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1885, and the Irish Land Act, 1887, and the Purchase of Land Act, 1891, be it therefore enacted as follows:—

On the application of the tenant of any holding purchased under the Irish Church Act, 1869, the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, or the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1872, and whether the annuities or instalments payable out of such holding have been altered under the provision of the Irish Land Act, 1887, or the Purchase of Land Act, 1891, or otherwise, and if, upon due investigation, they find that any portion of the purchase money other than the advance made by the State was borrowed by the tenant and still remains due, the Irish Land Commissioners shall make such further advance as may be required to pay off such debt, and shall pay it off: Provided that upon due inquiry, the Land Commission is satisfied that such holding is sufficient security for such advance when added to the portion still unpaid of the original State loan or advance.

The Land Commission shall ascertain the present capital value of the annuities or instalments still remaining unpaid of the original advance, and shall add such capital sum to the amount advanced under this section, and repayment of the total sum so found shall be provided for by an annuity from the first day of May or the first day of November next preceding the date of the application under this section of such amount as shall be found by the Land Commissioners to be required to repay it by half-yearly instalments calculated under section seventeen of this Act."

*Mr. Kilbride.*

*MR. SPEAKER: The next clause which stands upon the Paper, in the name of the hon. Baronet the Member for South Londonderry, as I understand it, is not in order, because it proposes to throw an additional burden upon the State. The clause appears to me to propose that where a tenant has, under previous Acts borrowed any portion of the purchase money from persons other than the State, the Land Commissioners shall make such further advance as may be required to pay off such debt. That would be to throw an increased burden upon the State, and such a proposal is out of order upon the Report stage of the Bill.

SIR THOMAS LEA said that his only object was to put tenants who had purchased their holdings under the Land Purchase Acts in the same position as other tenants would occupy under this Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is exactly what I understand the meaning of the clause to be, and as it proposed to throw an increased burden upon the State, it is out of order.

Clause 1,—

### PART 1. LAND LAW.

### FAIR RENT.—AMENDMENT AS TO IMPROVEMENTS.

(1.) Where the court fixes a fair rent for a holding, the court shall ascertain and record in the form of a schedule—

(*a*) the annual sum which should be the fair rent of the holding on the assumption that all improvements thereon were made or acquired by the landlord;

(*b*) the condition of the holding and the buildings thereon;

(*c*) the improvements made by the tenant wholly or partly by or at his cost, and with respect to such improvement—

  (i) the nature, character, and present capital value thereof, and the increased letting value due thereto;

  (ii) the date (so near as can be ascertained) at which the same was made; and

  (iii) the deduction from the rent made on account thereof;

(*d*) the extent (if any) to which the landlord has paid or compensated the tenant in respect of each such improvement;

(*e*) the improvements made wholly or partly by or at the cost of, or acquired by, the landlord;

(*f*) such other matters in relation to the holding as may be prescribed; and

(*g*) the fair rent of the holding;

and the record shall be admissible in evidence on its mere production from the proper custody.

(2.) No rent shall be allowed or made payable in respect of an improvement made by the tenant on a holding by reason only of the work constituting such improvement not being suitable to the holding.

(3.) For the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent, a tenant shall be deemed to have been fully paid or compensated for every improvement made by him in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration.

(4.) For the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent, a tenant shall not be deemed to have been paid or compensated for any improvement not made in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration, except to the extent to which the court, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, are of opinion that valuable consideration has been given by the landlord in respect of the improvement.

(5.) A contract by a tenant not to claim, on quitting his holding, compensation for any improvement made by him, shall not authorise the allowance of any rent in respect of any improvement except to the extent to which the court, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, are of opinion that valuable consideration has been given by the landlord in respect of the entering into that contract.

(6.) Section four of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, shall not authorise the allowance of any rent in respect of any improvement, provided that rent may be allowed in respect of an improvement made by the tenant, if made twenty years before the passing of the said Act, and not being a permanent building or reclamation of waste land.

(7.) For the purpose of this section valuable consideration shall not be held to have been given by reason of the mere letting of the land on lease or otherwise or the mere enjoyment by the tenant of any improvement where the rent of the holding was not fixed, reduced, abated, or, after the improvement was made, allowed to remain unaltered with the object of recouping the tenant for his expenditure of capital and labour in making the improvement; and in the case of an improvement made in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration, such object shall be implied where not expressed.

(8.) Sub-sections one, two, and four of section five of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, shall not have effect in the case of applications to fix a fair rent.

MR. KNOX moved in Sub-section (1), after the word "court"—("Where the court")—to insert the words "if the applicant so demand at the hearing."

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that he could not accept the Amendment.

MR. KNOX asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. KNOX moved, in Sub-section (1) after the word "shall" to insert the words "if either the landlord or the tenant so requires."

MR. KNOX said he would accept the words the Chief Secretary had suggested, "unless landlord and tenant agree in asking that such schedule shall not be filled up."

MR. DILLON submitted that it would be to the advantage of the tenant that the schedule should be filled up.

MR. JORDAN contended that the schedule would deprive small tenants of the protection of the statute.

MR. KNOX said the schedule in its present form, instead of being an advantage to the tenant, would be a great disadvantage. However, he asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. KNOX moved, in Sub-section (1), after the word "schedule," to insert the words "unless both landlord and tenant concur in asking that such a schedule shall not be filled up." Believing this sub-section was the worst thing in the whole Bill for the tenant, he hoped the words would be accepted.

MR. T. M. HEALY, in supporting the Amendment, observed that the schedule was prepared by the Government in favour of the landlords; it was a landlords' schedule, and was obnoxious to the tenants' interest.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. KNOX moved, in paragraph (*g*), Sub-section (1), after the word "and," to insert the words "a certified copy of the record shall be sent by post to each party, and."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. KNOX moved, in paragraph (*g*), Sub-section (1), after the word "record," to insert the words "or a certified copy thereof."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. KILBRIDE** moved, in paragraph (*g*), Sub-section (1), after the word "custody," to insert—

> "For the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent the word "improvement" shall, notwithstanding anything in the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, be construed to mean any increased letting value due to or arising out of any expenditure of labour or capital on or in respect of the holding."

The hon. Member said he moved this Amendment in order to give the Government an opportunity of reconsidering their position on the question of improvements. If the Bill was to pass in its present form it could not be accepted by the tenant-farmers as a final solution of the land question, and especially on this matter of improvements, around which the whole question centred. As the law now stood, for every pound which the tenant had expended, and which increased the letting value of his farm by one shilling, part of that shilling had to go to the landlord. He should like to hear whether the interest the tenant was entitled to on the capital he had expended was to go up and down according as money was dear or cheap. The Land Commission might hold that the rate of interest to which the tenant was entitled on the capital value of his expenditure was 2½ or only 2 per cent. Money expended in land reclamation or improvement did not, in the great majority of cases, bring in a large percentage. He thought the tenant was entitled to the full increased value of the land on the money he had spent in improving his holding. As the Bill stood, the tenant-farmers were to be told that where the expenditure was remunerative that expenditure was to be taxed in the interest of the landlord. That was to say, where the tenant created something very valuable, the landlord was to have a slice, but where the tenant created anything that instead of being valuable resulted in a loss, the landlord was not to bear any share of such loss. The Bill gave the sanction of statute law to the decision in Adams *v.* Dunseath. He thought that was an entirely one-sided arrangement. If the increased letting value was to be divided between landlord and tenant, and the latter got a certain percentage on the capital he had expended, then, where the tenant made an unfortunate speculation, and where, instead of increasing the letting value and getting interest on the money he expended, he made a dead loss, there should be a provision for the landlord to share the loss with the tenant. The Bill, however, contained no such provision. They heard a great deal about the inherent capacity of the soil. He did not dispute that the inherent capacity of the soil was the property of the landlord, but what he did say was this. When a tenant took a farm it was because of his knowledge that the farm possessed an inherent capacity, and for which alone he paid the rent. But the landlord ought not to get two rents upon the inherent capacity, namely, for the natural inherent capacity of the soil and the inherent capacity which had been developed and made more active by the skill and improvement of the tenant. According to the Bill, the more the tenant developed the inherent capacity of the soil the more rent had he to pay for it. As a holding was rendered more valuable by the improvements effected at the expenditure of much capital and labour by the tenant, the Land Commission might, under the Bill, say that he was to pay a higher rent. He was thus to be mulcted for having succeeded in making two blades of grass grow where only one grew before. He contended that inherent capacity ought to pay one rent only. The tenant-farmers of Ireland would not be satisfied with the Bill as it at present stood. The tenant-farmers, rightly or wrongly, believed that the increased letting value due to their expenditure of capital and labour in developing the inherent capacity of the soil was their property, and their property alone. If they were to encourage industry, if they were to encourage the tenant-farmer to improve his land, they must secure to him the whole benefit of that improvement. There was no other means by which the soil of Ireland could be thoroughly developed. The Bill, as it stood, did not foster industry, but, on the contrary, it almost discouraged the tenant to go on improving his land and making it as remunerative as possible. What this House ought to do was to impress the tenant-farmer of Ireland with the fact that the best bank he had for his savings was the land he cultivated. The Bill, in its present form, did not do that.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY was sure the hon. Gentleman would not think him guilty of any disrespect to him when he said he would strongly advise the House not to enter into the complex discussion involved in this Amendment. The policy of the Government had been laid down with great distinctness on a previous stage of the Bill. There were hon. Gentlemen opposite who took the view of the hon. Member who had just spoken, and had pressed very strongly that the law should be modified in the sense of the Amendment. There were other hon. Gentlemen who had pressed the Government to modify the law in precisely the opposite direction. The resolution they had come to was not to modify the law in this particular at all, and not to attempt any definition in regard to the inherent properties of the soil. They had, if he might remind the House, a deal of work before them that night, and he thought it would be desirable that they should consider some of the big questions that had been so fully debated before as now being finally settled, and that they should not discuss at great length the very difficult problem which the hon. Gentleman had raised in his speech. He hoped he would not press his Amendment, but if he did he trusted the House would not be betrayed into a long and elaborate discussion over ground which had been so often trodden before.

MR. DILLON admitted that this subject had been very fully discussed on the Committee stage, and he should be glad to see the advice of the First Lord of the Treasury accepted, and a Division immediately taken. He had not the slightest intention of traversing ground already covered, but he desired to warn the House that the farmers of Ireland could not and would not regard this question of the protection of the tenants' improvements as settled until the law was altered in the sense aimed at by this Amendment. This was a question which affected the whole body of farmers, and he believed nothing short of this Amendment would give full and ample protection of the tenants' improvements.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided :—Ayes, 102; Noes, 184.—(Division List, No. 355.)

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved to leave out the words, "an application to fix a fair rent," and to insert instead thereof the words, "the Land Law Acts." He said this was simply a drafting Amendment, and therefore he promised there would be no objection to it. There were continual references in the section to improvements, and obviously the amendment of the law in the clause should extend to any proceeding under the Land Acts.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he really did not quite see at the first glance what was the purport of the Amendment.

MR. MAURICE HEALY asked the right hon. Gentleman to take the case of the pre-emption clause. When a tenant exercised his right of pre-emption, the Land Commission fixed the value of the land. One element for consideration was improvements. It would be absurd that there should be two definitions of improvements.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. FLYNN moved, in Sub-section (3) to leave out the words "valuable consideration," and to insert instead thereof the words, "money, or money's worth." When they found that sections of the Act of 1881 had been turned against the tenant, and the word "consideration" misinterpreted, it was necessary they should guard against a similar failure of justice under this Bill.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that in the first draft of the Bill they had the words "money or money's worth," but they had deliberately left them out. They could not go back on that decision.

MR. T. M. HEALY complained that the words were omitted because they were understood to be in favour of the tenants. The change was made to carry out the views of Mr. Justice Bewley.

Amendment negatived.

MR. FLYNN moved, in Sub-section (6) to leave out the word "twenty" and to insert instead thereof the word "fifty." There was a strong feeling that this change was necessary to protect the interests of tenants.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he had already explained this question of improvements.

MR. DILLON said that there was a great deal of land in Ireland which was of a semi-waste character, the tenant of which was debarred from the exemption in favour of the reclamation of waste land.

Amendment negatived.

MR. FLYNN moved in Sub-section (6) to leave out the word "waste." Reclamation of waste land was a very important feature in connection with the improvements made by the tenantry of Ireland, but unless land was technically waste, *i.e.*, without any trace of cultivation whatever, the tenant could be rented upon his improvements. In many districts of Ireland mountain land had been reclaimed by the tenants from a state of nature and made fit for grazing by means of lime, and there were many thousands of acres which had been so reclaimed by constant expenditure and unremitting industry.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the hon. Member seemed to suggest that they were altering the law, but the law had been so ever since the Act of 1881 was passed. The expression "reclamation of waste land" was now thoroughly understood; it was perfectly clear from the rulings of the Courts, and to omit the word would lead to much difficulty.

MR. FLYNN asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. FLYNN moved in Sub-section (7) to omit the word "fixed." It must be apparent to everyone that the words "valuable consideration" would bear a meaning of dangerous import to the tenant if the word "fixed" were retained.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR thought the hon. Member misinterpreted the application of the words. He could not accept the Amendment.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that if the Amendment were not accepted a tenant might be compensated for his improvements by having his rent increased.

Amendment negatived.

MR. FLYNN moved in Sub-section (7) to leave out the words "allowed to remain unaltered," in order to insert the words, "reduced substantially." The clause as it stood assumed that if a tenant's rent was not raised it was a "valuable consideration."

MR. GERALD BALFOUR refused to accept the Amendment.

MR. DILLON said it would be open to a landlord, who charged a higher rent than other landlords in the district, to argue that he did not impose a still higher rent in order to recoup the tenant for improvements.

MR. HARRINGTON thought the meaning of the clause was clear; it would be imperative on a landlord to prove that he allowed the rent to remain unaltered for the purpose of recouping the tenant.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: That is so.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL thought the Amendment was substantial, and hoped the Government would accept it. He very much feared, otherwise, that mere acquiescence by the tenant in the old rent after he had made improvements, would be taken as proof that he had received compensation for those improvements.

Amendment negatived.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, at the end of Sub-section (7), to insert the words—

"unless it shall be proved to the Court that the tenant in fact received no consideration for making the improvement."

He said that there were to be certain cases in which the landlord was to get rent on improvements for which the tenant had not been compensated. That was one defect of the clause. Another was contained in the words at the end of Sub-section (7)—

"and in the case of an improvement made, in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration, such object shall be implied where not expressed."

It was one thing for the tenant to enter into a contract to make an improvement, and quite another thing to agree to pay rent on that improvement. No tenant in making an improvement would contract to pay rent on it, and his Amendment declared that, where the tenant proved that he had received no compensation, the landlord should not have power to rent the improvement.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the Government could not undertake to enter into those cases where a contract had been made by the tenant to make an improvement. To break through that rule would be to open the door to a vast amount of litigation. The only way to prevent that litigation was to accept the general principle that, where an improvement had been made in pursuance of a contract, it should be held that he had been compensated for the expenditure of his capital. The Government must adhere to the clause as drafted.

MR. T. M. HEALY cited a case where a tenant had an agreement with the right hon. Member for South Hunts, by which he was bound to build a house. The tenant built the house, and expended £600 upon it. He then sold the tenancy to Richard Maloney for £600. Richard Maloney went into Court, and though the right hon. Gentleman had not expended a shilling on the building, he claimed rent on the house. The Sub-Commissioner said it was a monstrous thing that rent should be claimed in such a case, and it was adjourned for some days in order that the right hon. Member for South Hunts might be communicated with. The right hon. Member telegraphed back—"Certainly; demand rent on the house." What remuneration or consideration did Richard Maloney get in that case? The Government were using the words "valuable consideration" in an antiquated and mouldy chancery sense.

MR. SMITH-BARRY said that the case referred to did not really come under the Land Act at all. It was a case where a gentleman built a house under a contract on a small plot of land as a residential holding, and after his death the executors sold it. An attempt was then made to use the farmhouse, and to get the whole farm brought into Court as an agricultural holding, but the house and land were never an agricultural holding, and they were, besides, outside the Act altogether.

MR. T. M. HEALY: The holding was decidedly under the Act.

Amendment negatived.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved, in Subsection (8), after "1870," to insert the words "and, as regards buildings, Subsection three of said section." He said that admittedly the landlords of Ireland had not built the tenants' houses; if they had, then they were a disgrace to them. This Amendment was intended to bring the law into accordance with the fact. If the landlords had built the houses they would be able to prove the fact, but for one landlord who had built a tenant's house, there were thousands of houses which had been built by the tenants. If in any case the tenant was entitled to a presumption it was in the case of buildings.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR agreed with the hon. Member that for the most part the buildings on the holdings in Ireland had been erected by the tenants; but he did not think this was a desirable Amendment to accept. Buildings were surely a form of improvement whose origin was easy to trace, and therefore there was no necessity for the Amendment.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that the right hon. Gentleman failed to remember that the tenant under this Act included the tenant and his predecessors in title. If the house was built by a tenant's grandfather who was unable to read or write, and who kept no records, the suggestion was that the tenant, born long after the house was built, and living at a time when every contemporary present at the building of the house was dead, could have no difficulty in proving the fact. The right hon. Gentleman and the landlord party had willingly enacted that the tenant should have no necessity to prove the building of the house if it was built any time after 1850, because the odds were that the existing tenant remembered the circumstance. The Government, therefore, gave a presumption which was not of the smallest value to them, and because a presumption was wanted in the case of a dwelling-house erected before that time, and when the present tenant could not possibly prove the building of the house, they were told that the presumption could not be granted. This was what happened in the Land Court. The tenant walked into the witness box, and when he proceeded to give evidence as to his improvements he was asked, "Who erected the buildings?" and he replied, "It was my father or grandfather." The landlord's lawyer asked, "Where you there when the buildings were erected?" and the tenant, of course, replied, "They were built before I was born." Thereupon arose a shout of derision, and the tenant's answers were struck out as not being evidence. It was in these cases, where the buildings were erected before 1850, that the presumption ought to be in the tenant's favour. The Amendment would bring the law into consonance with the notorious facts. In the majority of cases there was no pretence that the landlord had erected the buildings, and in exceptional cases where they had been erected by the landlord the fact could be easily proved. Unless the Government accepted this Amendment they would be handing over to the landlords nine out of ten of the buildings erected by the tenants before 1850.

MR. VESEY KNOX said that the presumption of fact in Ireland was that the tenant had made the improvements himself. Why, then, sanction a presumption of law which they all knew to be contrary to the facts? The Government were asking them to lay down an artificial rule, and thereby to go out of their way to perpetrate injustice. If the facts were that in nine cases out of ten the tenants or their predecessors had built their houses, why declare that the landlord must be presumed to have erected the houses unless the contrary was proved? That was a ridiculous presumption, and he trusted that the Government would reconsider the point.

Amendment negatived.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved, in Subsection (2), after the word "fix," to insert the words "or has fixed." He said the Irish Members would consider themselves very badly treated if the Government did not accept this Amendment. He had already established by argument that it was a most unfair thing that where a tenant had been delayed for years in getting a fair rent fixed, those years should be added on to the statutory term. There were cases in which men had for five years been rapping in vain at the doors of British justice in Ireland and had failed, not through any fault of their own, but because the British janitor would not open to them. He would suggest that the Government should now agree that such tenants should not suffer, after being kept waiting for four or five years, the additional hardship of having a 20 years' term put upon them.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that, of course, although there were strong arguments in favour of the proposal of the hon. and learned Member for Louth, there were also arguments on the other side. If agricultural prices had gone up instead of falling, the adoption of short terms for judicial rents might have operated disadvantageously to the tenants. No doubt Parliament had, rightly or wrongly, so acted as to make everyone in Ireland believe that no bargain, whether made with the State or otherwise, was of a permanent character, and they should therefore be very cautious not unduly to extend the principle of this clause. The grievance that tenants had not had freer access to the Land Courts, though a real was a diminishing and would ultimately be a vanishing one, and it must not be supposed that by declining to accept this new subversion of an accepted agreement that the Government were doing any permanent injustice or permanent hardship to any class connected with the tenure of land in Ireland. The Government were not unsympathetic in the matter. They had fully considered it, and had been reluctantly driven to the conclusion that this hardship could not be remedied without inflicting greater injuries in another direction.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said the tenants in Cork and Kerry would not receive them with much favour if the only excuse they could give them for their grievances was that they were the fault of previous Governments. There was not one word to be said against the

Amendment. It had been said that its acceptance ought to depend upon procedure. But procedure had not one atom to do with it, and certainly it was an extraordinary thing, when dealing with an Amendment of this kind, that even hon. Gentlemen opposite — the Irish landlords themselves—should not rise in their places to protest that they, at any rate, would be no parties to inflict injustice on their tenants merely because the Administration in power from 1881 to 1887 were not permitted by the British Treasury to employ an adequate number of Sub-Commissioners to fix fair rents with sufficient speed.

Amendment negatived.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR moved, in Sub-section (3), after the words "payable by him," to insert the words—

"unless the judicial rent exceeds fifty pounds a-year, in which case the difference may be deducted from any rent subsequently payable by him."

He explained that he brought forward the proposal in consequence of a promise made at an earlier stage to deal with this question.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3,—

EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN HOLDINGS.

(1.) The Land Law Acts, except section seven of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881 (which amends the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, in respect of compensation for improvements), shall not apply to the following tenancies:—

(*a.*) To a tenancy in any holding which is not substantially either agricultural or pastoral in its character, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral, or to a letting of land, the main object of which is for a residence:

(*b.*) To a tenancy in any holding which substantially consists of—

(i) land being or forming part of a home farm; or

(ii) land which when first demised was demesne, and which the provisions of the contract of tenancy, or the circumstances of the case, show was intended to be preserved as demesne or resumed as demesne by the landlord; or

(iii) land incorporated in a demesne by the tenant, and forming part of a demesne at the time the application to fix a fair rent is made:

(*c.*) To a tenancy in a holding (other than a holding let to be used wholly or mainly for a dairy farm) which is let to be used wholly or mainly for the purpose of pasture—

(i) if it is of the rateable value of one hundred pounds or upwards; or

(ii) if the tenant does not actually reside on the holding, or where the holding adjoins or is ordinarily used with another holding then on the latter holding:

(2.) Where a distinct and substantive part of the property held under one demise is demesne land, or is not agricultural or pastoral in its character, or is an incorporeal hereditament, and the Court consider that that part is not the substantial part of such property, the Court may, if they are of opinion that, apart from the fixing of a fair rent, the separation of the property into two parts will not diminish the value of the landlord's interest therein, direct that that part shall thenceforth be, or, if it is an incorporeal hereditament, be treated as a separate holding, and be held at such rent during the continuance of the tenancy as the Court determine to be the proper proportion of rent reserved by the demise, and the Court may fix a fair rent for the remainder of the property held under the demise, and the said Acts shall apply to that remainder as if it were a separate holding.

(3.) Nothing in this section shall extend to any holding in respect of which a judicial rent has been fixed before the commencement of this Act.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR moved in Paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1) to omit the words "or to a letting of land, the main object of which is," leave out from "or" to "for" in line two, and to insert instead thereof the words "the main object of the letting of which was." This was, he said, a purely drafting Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB, on behalf of MR. CARSON, moved, in Sub-paragraph (ii) Sub-section (1), after the word "demesne" to leave out the words "and which" and to insert the word "unless." This and the next Amendment sufficiently explained the object in view, which was to make it perfectly clear to what cases the provisions of the clause should apply.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND was understood to say that the Amendment provided for that which never could occur.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved in paragraph (*c*) Sub-section (1), after the words "dairy farm" to insert the words "or a holding which was laid down in permanent pasture by the tenant at his own expense." He said he understood the right hon. Gentleman to agree to this Amendment in substance when they were in Committee, but that he would like time to consider it.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he had been considering it, but he could not see to what cases it would apply, because if a holding was originally an agricultural or pastoral holding and it was converted by a tenant, at his own expense, into permanent pasture, that would naturally come under the Land Act. He did not see really what case the hon. Member had in his mind.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that if a tenant had laid down land in permanent pasture at his own expense, and a very expensive operation it was in some cases, it would surely be very unjust that a landlord should afterwards come in, and, on the ground that he contracted with the tenant to keep the land in pasture, be able to debar the tenant from the benefits of a subsequent Statute and prevent him going into Court to get a fair rent fixed. The Government accepted this Amendment in principle in Committee subject to the consideration of certain verbiage, and promised to deal with the matter in the Report Stage. They now found, however, that there was a certain disposition to accept no Amendment on the matter. At the same time the Government had not attempted to meet this Amendment by argument, and he thought the Irish Members were not being treated fairly and in a proper spirit.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said he could not help looking upon the Amendment as involving a very strong inducement to the Irish farmers to perjure themselves through efforts to prove that their fathers or grandfathers had laid down the land in pasture. The question really affected very few cases, and he did not think that any grievance existed in Ireland with regard to it.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. T. M. HEALY moved, in Sub-paragraph (i), paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), after the word "of" to insert the words "upwards of," so as to provide for even money.

Amendment agreed to amid Nationalist cheers.

MR. SMITH-BARRY moved, in Sub-paragraph (i), Paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "one hundred," and to insert instead thereof the word "fifty." He submitted that no reason had been shown why these figures should ever be changed. There never was any case made out why it should be altered in favour of the dairy class of tenants. These tenants were not like the ordinary class of tenants who might have built the houses or made improvements. They were really graziers and cattle dealers, and they made no improvements upon the land. He very strongly protested against the alteration from £50 to £100, and he begged to move that the latter be struck out and £50 inserted.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR was understood to say that he could not accept the proposal of his right hon. Friend.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON regarded the proposal in the Bill as a wanton alteration in the Act of 1881.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said he had an Amendment to raise the figure from £100 to £150, but he did not propose to move it. He said the limit of £50 was fixed under the Act of 1870. Under the Act of 1881, the limit under which they could contract was £150.

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) pointed out that a grazing farm of 50 or 100 acres was not such an extraordinary allowance. The circumstances of the time were entirely different now to what they were in 1871.

*SIR J. COLOMB said no adequate reason had been given for a departure from the principles of 1881. For his own part, when he went down to his constituents, he could only say that he had been supporting an Amendment of the Government to confer benefits on the very well-to-do classes in Ireland which were denied to the poorer classes in his own constituency.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Is a man earning £1 a week well-to-do?

Amendment negatived.

Mr. T. M. HEALY moved, in Sub-paragraph (i) paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "or upwards."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR moved in Sub-paragraph (iii), paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), after the word "holding" to add —

"In the construction of the 9th Section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, the word 'agriculture' shall be construed to mean agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral."

Mr. MAURICE HEALY submitted that this provision would be more in place if inserted in Clause 4.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR asked leave to withdraw the Amendment for the present.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved, in Sub-section (2), after the words "a separate holding and," to insert the words "unless the tenancy has expired." The clause provided, in a case where a portion of the holding was non-agricultural, that the non-agricultural portion should be segregated from the rest of the holding, and then be held for the continuance of the tenancy. It might happen that a tenant with such a holding, being satisfied with his position, did not want to go into court. In that case there need be no necessity for that division.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND said that if the words suggested by the hon. Member were inserted in the place proposed they would make the clause run awkwardly.

Mr. T. M. HEALY suggested that if the Amendment were made to read "shall, unless the tenancy has expired," the awkwardness felt by the Government would be obviated.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Words "shall, unless the tenancy has expired" inserted.

Mr. T. M. HEALY moved, in Sub-section (2), after the word "holding," to insert the following sub-section :—

"(3) Where a holding is held by joint tenants or tenants in common, and such tenants have worked and occupied separate portions thereof, and the division of the holding was made prior to the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, the court may, if it thinks just, on the application of any joint tenant or tenant in common, fix a fair rent upon the portion of the holding so separately occupied."

### TOWN PARKS.

In the construction of the seventh Section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, the word "agricultural" shall be construed to mean agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND: We accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4,—

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved to leave out the word "seventh" and to insert instead thereof the word "ninth."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. T. M. HEALY moved, at the end of the clause to add "and the words 'city or town' in the Land Law Acts shall be deemed not to include a village."

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND thought the Amendment, instead of making the law as to what constituted a town park more clear, would make it more involved, because a village was just as undefined and unascertainable a thing as a town. The leading judgments had pointed out the difficulty of fixing a statutory limit of population, but they had said that where there was a number of persons congregated together sufficient to create a demand for accommodation land, it should constitute a town within the meaning of the Act.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved, at the end of the clause to add,—

"and a holding shall be deemed to have been let and used as an ordinary agricultural farm within the meaning of the said section, unless the contrary is proved."

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said the Government could not accept the Amendment.

Amendment negatived.

MR. KNOX moved, at the end of the clause to add,—

"and no holding to which the Ulster custom applies shall be deemed to be a town park within the meaning of that section."

He contended that in a case where a dual ownership had existed for generations then the tenant should not be excluded from those portions of the Land Act allowing him to get a fair rent fixed. It was a small Amendment, which, though not affecting a very large number of cases, did affect a number of cases in which injustice had been suffered.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR thought that no sufficient reason had been given for inserting this Amendment. The Government had pointed out that nothing in the Bill should in any way abridge the privileges of the Ulster custom on any holding where those privileges existed.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 5,—

### EXCLUSION BY SUB-LETTING OF HOLDING.

(1.) For the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent, the tenant of a holding shall be deemed to be in *bonâ fide* occupation thereof notwithstanding—

(*a*) that any dwelling-house on the holding, not being the dwelling of the tenant, and not having been erected by the tenant in breach of his contract of tenancy or of a statutory condition, is sub-let to or in the occupation of another person; or

(*b*) that any other part of the holding is, otherwise than in breach of the contract of tenancy, or of a statutory condition, sub-let to or in the occupation of another person, if in the estimation of the court a part not less than seven-eighths or thereabouts in value of the holding, excluding from such value the value of any buildings erected by the tenant, remains in the *bonâ fide* occupation of the tenant; and if the sub-letting was made before the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, or was substantially in substitution for a letting existing at that date;

Provided that this enactment shall not apply unless the court think it reasonable to entertain the application having regard to the acreage of the holding and to any other matter which they think should be taken into consideration, and the court may entertain the application notwithstanding that any such house or part of a holding is occupied by a person to whom it has been sub-let in contravention of Section 2 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881.

(2.) Where a part of the property held under one demise is sub-let, and the property was let to the tenant subject to the tenancy of some other person in the part sub-let, the court may direct that the part so sub-let shall thenceforth be, or if it is an incorporeal hereditament be treated as, a separate holding, and shall be held during the continuance of the tenancy at such rent as the court determine to be the proper proportion of the rent reserved by the demise, and the court may fix a fair rent for the remainder of the property held under the demise, and the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act shall apply to that remainder, as if it were a separate holding;

Provided that, if the landlord so elect, the court shall order that the tenant of the part so sub-let shall be the tenant of such landlord as his immediate landlord.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, in Sub-section (1) to leave out the words "an application to fix a fair rent," and to insert instead thereof the words "the Land Law Acts."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, in paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1) to leave out the words "of the tenant," and to insert instead thereof the words "in which the tenant for the time being resides."

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB moved, in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), after the word "person," to insert :—

"(unless it be shown that such sub-letting was made by the tenant for the purpose of making a profit by the sub-letting, or not solely for the due cultivation of his holding)."

He referred to the case of a tenant who had another dwelling-house on the holding and who let it for lodgings or as an hotel, and yet claimed to have a fair rent fixed as an agricutural tenant. [SEVERAL IRISH MEMBERS: "Why not?"] Was it just or right that he should be allowed to do so? This other house should be in the occupation of some one employed necessarily on the holding; and the tenant letting another house on his holding for profit should not have a fair rent fixed if he was letting it at a profit.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said it was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment. The clause had been put into its present shape in order to meet a recognised grievance. Where there was a house or houses on the holdings not let in breach of the contract, and it was proposed to sub-let to a mill-hand for example, that was a case which they wished to provide for in this section.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR moved, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "this enactment," and to insert instead thereof—

> "(i.) for the purpose of the foregoing provisions of this Section, a breach of the contract of tenancy shall not be deemed to have taken place if the landlord waived such breach;
>
> (ii.) the foregoing provisions of this section."

He said the Amendment was introduced in pursuance of his undertaking to consider a recommendation made by the hon. Member for Cork City. If this Amendment was not inserted, the effect would be that, if a breach of tenancy had taken place and was afterwards condoned by the landlord, it would, nevertheless, not be possible for the tenant to take advantage of this section. The Government thought that would be a great hardship. They could not, however, go so far as the Amendment of the hon. Member for Cork, which stood next on the Paper.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said he preferred his own Amendment, but, as the right hon. Gentleman had endeavoured to meet him, he accepted the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved, at the end of Sub-section (1), to insert:—

> "For the purposes of the fifty-seventh Section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, a portion of a holding sub-let shall be deemed to be sub-let with the landlord's consent if the consent of the landlord or his agent shall be proved thereto, though given in a manner other than that prescribed in the contract of tenancy."

He said the case he asked the right hon. Gentleman to consider was that of "Bowman *v.* Caterhill," which was decided under the present law. Under the Act of 1881 a tenant had to be in occupation of his holding before he could have a fair rent fixed. There was, however, a proviso that, where he had sub-let part of his holding with the consent of his landlord, he should be deemed to be in occupation. Of course the courts in Ireland held that the landlord must have consented in the manner prescribed by the instrument of tenancy. All he sought to do was to apply the principle of the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment to the general law under the Act of 1881, and he thought the Attorney General would admit that unless that were done the case to which he had referred would still remain law.

Mr. SMITH-BARRY objected to the Amendment.

*Mr. Serjeant HEMPHILL said that the object of the Amendment was to meet cases where the Acts required the landlord's consent to be in writing, and the consent had been given verbally.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR said that in his opinion the object of the Amendment was fully attained by the Amendment which had just been agreed to.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY pointed out that, under the existing law, even where the landlord admitted that he had consented verbally to the sub-letting of the holding, the tenant was not protected by the consent because it was not in writing.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND said that in his view the hon. Member's object would be carried into effect by the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland, which had just been agreed to.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved at the end of the clause to add:—

> "The sub-letting of any such dwelling-house as is referred to in Sub-section 1 (*a*) of this Section during the continuance of a statutory term or after its expiration shall not be deemed to be a breach of any statutory condition, nor shall the second Section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, apply to any such sub-letting, whether made before or after the passing of this Act."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 6,—

### TURBARY AND OTHER PROFITS, EASEMENTS, AND PRIVILEGES.

Where, on an application to fix the fair rent for a holding, it is proved to the court that the tenant of the holding by virtue of his tenancy has, by the permission of the landlord, whether with or without payment, been accustomed to exercise any profit a prendre, easement, privilege of turbary, or other privilege over land belonging to the landlord, and it appears to be necessary for the reasonable enjoyment of the holding that he should not be deprived of what he has so exercised, and that the interests of the landlord in portions of his estate other than that in which the said profit a pendre, easement, or privilege is to be exercised will not be thereby injuriously affected, the court may, after giving the landlord and tenant of the holding and any tenant of the land an opportunity of being heard, make an order for securing the profit, easement, or privilege to the tenant of the holding, upon such terms, as to rent or otherwise, and in such manner as the court think just, and such order shall be binding on all estates and interests in the said land.

*MR. LECKY (Dublin University) moved the omission of Clause 6. If turbary was tolerably clear, the other privileges alluded to in this clause were as vague as could be conceived. They had heard during the discussions in Committee a good deal about them, and they appeared to comprise such things as the right of way through the landlord's park, the right of cutting firewood and brushwood in it, of digging gravel, of grazing cattle on the mountain lands, but the Attorney General was totally unable to specify the greater number of them. There was no question here of disputed right. The present legal and complete authority of the landlord, which was being taken away was undoubted, and there was no question of abuse of rights. If the landlord had not chosen to give these privileges the law would not touch him. It was because of his own free will and generosity he had chosen to grant them to the tenants that they were to be taken away from him for all future time, and he was to lose all power of supervision and control. It was difficult to conceive a more direct and absolute violation of the rights of property than this. A plain legal right was plainly taken away by a party that professed to be especially the party representing property, by the party whose leaders had told them that they would be no parties to any further predatory legislation about Irish land, to any attempts to take any more from the diminished property or the attenuated rights that still remained to the Irish landlord. He did not wish to use any exaggerated or violent language, but he must say that if this clause passed into the Statute-book it would create a precedent which was certain to grow, and the fact that it had been proposed by a Unionist Government had left an impression on the minds of many of their supporters which was not likely to be effaced.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he could not help thinking that his hon. Friend approached the consideration of this clause with such a prejudice against the principles of the Act of 1881 as to make him really incapable of judging the present position. They had to start from the Act of 1881. They had undertaken, so far as they could, to carry out what they believed to be the spirit and intention of the authors of the Act, and to smooth away as far as possible its ragged edges. That Act conferred on the tenant in regard to his holding the right to have a fair rent fixed and the right of fixity of tenure. They had then to consider whether what were no doubt called privileges in this clause were not such as should be practically included in the holding when a fair rent was fixed. If they did not take that course they ran the risk of undoing everything the Act of 1881, in regard to these holdings, intended and purported to do. His hon. Friend had asked the House to consider whether it was not, by this clause, taking away privileges which landlords had freely given to their tenants, and which they might freely take away. But his hon. Friend, like others who had criticised that clause, had carefully avoided calling the attention of the House to its guiding and dominant words. Those words were that the privileges "are to be necessary for the reasonable enjoyment of the holding." Those words were all-important. ["Hear, hear!"] In this matter they were not dealing with privileges which the landlord gave one day and could take away the next. If the landlord took them away it would be practically equivalent to giving the tenant notice to quit, because the holding could not be usefully enjoyed without them. ["Hear, hear!"] He would ask the House once more to note how carefully the clause was drawn. In the first place the privileges referred to were to be enjoyed by virtue of tenancy; next, the permission of the landlord must have been customary; then, the privileges must be necessary to the reasonable enjoyment of the holding; and, lastly, the privileges were not to be secured to the tenant for nothing. The terms upon which the privileges were secured to the tenant had to be fixed. The hon. Member had spoken of the Government taking away that which belonged to the landlord, but there was no unjust action of the kind in this case. There was no robbery in this case. [" Hear, hear ! "] The Act of 1881 might have been wrong from the beginning, but it would be generally admitted that the Government had no option but to take that Act as the foundation of their action; and, that being so, he could not see that they were open to the strictures which the hon. Member and other hon. Members had showered upon them. [" Hear, hear ! "]

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said that they had fought this clause more strenuously than any other clause in the Bill, and he thought the opinion of the majority of the House, so far as he could gather it, was that, athough they lost the Division, they won the day in argument against the clause. Although they had been in a minority, yet the sense of the House was with them. Members opposite did not admit the landlords had any rights except to pay the Poor Rate —[*laughter*]—but he could not conceive a party mainly composed of Conservatives, which had always held to the principle of the rights of property, taking away from the Irish landlords rights and privileges which they had always enjoyed, without rhyme or reason beyond showing that the Act of 1881 was a bad Act, and that it might be made a little worse. [*Laughter.*] The clause was likely to bring about evil results. It dealt with privileges conferred for nothing on Irish tenants by their landlords —[" No, no ! "]— but because these rights of cutting wood and turf had been freely conferred in times past they were now to be lost, and by the law of the land these things were to be conferred on the tenant or whoever the tenant sold the land to. It was a monstrous proposition, and he had no Parliamentary word that would fitly apply to it. If the power of the Irish landlords to deal with turf was to be obliterated, the Bill would create more confusion and bloodshed than anything up to the present time. [" Oh, oh ! "] The Irish people had had their firing for nothing from time immemorial, and this wanton interference would bring in an element of hopeless confusion. Therefore, he declared the clause bad from beginning to end, and without a redeeming feature. [" Hear, hear ! "]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said his hon. and gallant Friend had spoken with great warmth, and no doubt he felt strongly. They were told that they were interfering with the convenience, the safety and even the lives of the Irish tenants if the clause was passed. He did not regard that as a necessary consequence. Probably, in the great mass of cases, the bogs would be left precisely as they were. [" Hear, hear ! "] The first argument of the distinguished Member for the University of Dublin was that they were taking away what was an act of liberality, and his second argument was that they were interfering, not only unjustifiably but unnecessarily with the existing rights of property. No man would regard more jealously than he any attempt to stop the fountains of liberality, and to punish those who were liberal by turning what was an act of grace into a rigid and inevitable law, but he denied that this clause would have that effect. The principal argument of his hon. Friend was that this was a new interference with the rights of property, and his right hon. Friend near him had been taunted with having said that this was a corollary of the Act of 1881. What his right hon. Friend desired to convey was that the benefits given, rightly or wrongly, to the tenant by the Act of 1881 might in certain cases be rendered absolutely nugatory unless a clause somewhat on these lines was passed into law. [" Hear, hear ! "] To show that, he would take an extreme case, because an extreme case was the best illustration in such matters. He would suppose the case of a holding where the only supply of turf available was in the hands of the landlord, and on his estate; in such a case to state that they were giving fixity of tenure and fair rent to the tenant, while it was in the power of the owner of the soil to make those two advantages absolutely of no effect whatever, was a proposition which the House ought not to sanction. The Act of 1881 had been carried. He hoped they would do all they could to introduce a better system, but while that Act existed they should not pretend to give with one hand to the tenant what they took away from him with the other hand. [*Nationalist cheers.*] It was admitted that the pecuniary interests involved were absolutely trivial, and those who voted against this clause for the arguments he had stated had mistaken its object and effect. It was one that did not touch property at all, that did not check the liberality of the landlords in giving that which was not necessary to the holding, and he earnestly hoped the House would support the Government in the retention of the clause.

MR. W. REDMOND (Clare, E.) said all the row was really about a few sods of turf, and the spectacle presented to the House of the Irish landlords striving to deprive the people of their fuel, explained why it was that landlords and tenants did not get on well together in Ireland. He was not surprised that the hon. Member for Armagh should grudge the tenants a few sods of turf, but it was astonishing to find a gentleman so distinguished as the hon. Member for Dublin University adopting such an attitude.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB said he did not know of any landlord who denied his tenants fuel. The Chief Secretary had repudiated the idea that this provision would lead to waste of turf, because the right hon. Gentleman said the Land Commission would lay down regulations under which tenants would cut turf. Were the Land Commissioners to be made bog-rangers? This was a proposal to give to the Land Commission powers over property on which there were no tenants at all. Another practical point was that under the proposal they would have an army of Sub-Commissioners under the Land Commission planted down at the public expense on the landlord's bog, that had never belonged to any tenants.

MR. TULLY said this was one of the clauses of the Bill which stood in danger in another place. Members opposite had spoken as if turbary was property taken from the landlords. He could mention some instances to the contrary derived from the estate on which he lived. On that estate, before the Land Acts came into operation, the bogs were the property of the tenants; at all events, they were regarded as valueless and rent was never charged upon them. A new landlord appeared on the scene and conceived the idea of giving the tenants bog-tickets at 1s. per year. This went on, and the tickets were increased in price to 2s. 6d., and, when the tenants went to the court to get a fair rent fixed, for every pound taken off the landlord's rent, he recouped himself by charging the tenants at the rate of £80 an acre for the bog which was previously reported as valueless. He had known an instance, too, where, because a poor man voted against a landlord in an election for poor-law guardians, he had been deprived of his bog and made to shiver through the winter. He hoped the Government would stick to the clause in another place.

Question put, "That the words of Clause 6 to the word 'and,' in line 6, stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 141; Noes, 34.—(Division List, No. 356.)

The result was received with ironical cheers from Nationalist Members.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved at the end of the clause to add:—

> (2) Where a statutory term has commenced before the passing of this Act or where no order under the foregoing section has been made, and the landlord during the currency of a statutory term takes proceedings to restrain the tenant from exercising the privileges in the preceding section mentioned, the tenant may apply to the Court in the prescribed manner, and thereupon the Court shall have the same powers as upon an application to fix a fair rent, and the proceedings commenced by the landlord may be stayed pending the decision upon the application under this section."

He said that the Amendment had been accepted in substance by the Government in Committee. At the time of the Settlements in Ireland, in every conveyance by the Crown to the settlers, waste, bog and mountain were excluded from the grant by the Crown. Quit rents were never put on the bog. He recalled a remarkable expression in one of Mr. Lecky's books that the whole of the Whiteboy troubles in the last century were due to the enclosures of commons in Ireland, which included bogs.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 7,—

LETTINGS BY PERSONS NOT ABSOLUTE OWNERS.

(1.) The Land Law Acts shall apply and be deemed to have always applied in the case of tenancies created by a limited owner or by a mortgagor or mortgagee in possession, where no fine or premium was received, and the tenancies shall not be or be deemed to have been determined (except in the case of fraud or collusion or a letting at a gross undervalue) by the cesser of the interest or possession of such limited owner, mortgagor, or mortgagee, and the person entitled on such cesser to receive the rent of the holding shall stand in the relation of landlord to the tenant of the holding, and have the rights and be subject to the obligations of landlord accordingly.

(2.) This section shall not apply to a tenancy in a holding which at the date of the letting was demesne land, where the mansion house is let with such demesne land, or the application of the Land Law Acts to the tenancy would materially diminish the value as a residence of the mansion house situate on and theretofore occupied with the demesne: Provided always, that when the landlord is a limited owner or mortgagor or mortgagee in possession, no order to fix a fair rent for the first time shall be made without the Land Commission giving the prescribed notice to the person entitled on such cesser.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved in Sub-section (1) to leave out the words "Where no fine or premium was received." He said it was necessary to omit these words in order to insert the words he had lower down on the Paper, namely—

"provided that where a fine or premium was received it shall be lawful for the Court to dismiss the tenant's application if the justice of the case so requires."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR moved, at the end of Sub-section (1) to add—

"provided that the Land Commission, before fixing the fair rent for the first time in respect of a tenancy to which this section applies, shall give the prescribed notice to the said person entitled on such cesser, or to some person appointed by the Land Commission to represent his interest."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, at the end of Sub-section (1) to insert—

"provided that, if the tenant so elects, this section shall apply in cases where a fine or premium was received, if the tenant is willing that such fine or premium shall not be taken into consideration in fixing the fair rent."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, in Sub-section (2), after the word "tenancy" to insert the words "created by a limited owner."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR moved, in Sub-section (2) to leave out the following words:—

"Provided always, that when the landlord is a limited owner or mortgagor or mortgagee in possession, no order to fix a fair rent for the first time shall be made without the Land Commission giving the prescribed notice to the person entitled on such cesser."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, in Sub-section (2) to leave out the words "to fix," and to insert the word "fixing."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, at the end of the clause, to add:—

"but the failure or neglect of the Land Commission to give such notice shall not affect the validity of the Order."

Amendment agreed to,

Clause 9,—

DETERMINATION OF ESTATE OF IMMEDIATE LANDLORD.

(1.) Where a superior landlord recovers against an immediate landlord a judgment in ejectment for nonpayment of the rent of a holding, or of lands including a holding, the estate of the immediate landlord shall be deemed to be determined within the meaning of Section fifteen of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, without prejudice to his right to redeem his interest, as if a decree to possession or a writ of habere facias possessionem had been executed.

(2.) Where the nonpayment was not due to the nonpayment of rent by the tenant of the holding, such judgment shall not be executed against the tenant, and the tenancy of the holding shall not be affected, except that the superior landlord shall stand in the relation of immediate landlord to the tenant, and may proceed accordingly for the recovery of all rent due from the tenant to the immediate landlord, but (except in the case of fraud or collusion or a letting at a gross undervalue) not for the recovery of the rent due to the superior from the immediate landlord. If the amount recovered by the superior landlord from the tenant equals or exceeds the amount due to him from the immediate landlord, the interest of the immediate landlord shall not be deemed to have been redeemed, but the superior landlord shall pay the excess to the immediate landlord, after deducting any amount due for costs.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the word "Where," and to insert the words, "Unless the Court before which the ejectment was brought certifies that."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the word "not," so that the clause should read, "Unless the Court before which the ejectment was brought certifies that the nonpayment was due."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR moved, in Sub-section (2), after the words "tenant to the immediate landlord," to insert the words "as if it had always been due to the superior landlord."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 12,—

EJECTMENTS FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT IN CASE OF HOLDINGS UNDER LAND LAW ACTS.

In the case of any ejectment brought for the nonpayment of the rent of a holding to which the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act apply, where the rent in arrear exceeds two years' rent, the tenant may pay, tender, deposit, or lodge under Sections sixty to seventy-one of the Landlord and Tenant Law Amendment Act (Ireland), 1860, the sum of two years' rent instead of the sums therein respectively required to be paid, tendered, deposited, or lodged, and upon such tender, payment, deposit, or lodgment the tenant shall be in the same position under those sections as if two years' rent were the sum claimed; and the balance of the rent then due shall not be recovered by ejectment for nonpayment of rent or distress.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved to insert in line 13, after the word "ejectment," "which shall be or has been."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved to leave out the word "claimed," and to insert instead thereof the words "due for rent up to the gale day preceding such tender, payment, deposit, or lodgment."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY moved at the end of the clause to add,

"nor shall the holding be sold or affected by or under any judgment, execution, or proceeding taken in respect of such balance of rent."

He explained that his object was to provide that where a landlord had already recovered two years' rent, he should not then take ejectment proceedings against the tenant. The hon. Member observed that in the Committee stage, the Chief Secretary expressed the opinion that these words gave too wide an application to the clause, and the right hon. Gentleman undertook to consider the matter with a view to seeing whether it was not possible to carry out the object aimed at by the Amendment. He did not see any proposal down on behalf of the Government, and accordingly he moved this Amendment, the words of which he regarded as much too narrow instead of too wide.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR thought the words of the hon. Gentleman were quite accurately drafted, but he could not admit that he himself gave any pledge or undertaking to deal with the Question. He had carefully considered the matter and while he admitted that something might be said for the contention of the hon. Member, on the whole he was not disposed to go beyond the clause as drafted. He did not think that the landlord after he had obtained two years' arrears from the tenant would then proceed by ejectment. [Mr. Maurice Healy: "The good landlord would not but the bad landlord would."] The adoption of the Amendment would mean that after the landlord had got his two years' rent, he should then have taken away from him the rights possessed by other creditors. The principle of the clause was that while the landlord should have his exceptional privilege of two years' arrears he was not afterwards deprived of any rights which an ordinary creditor would have.

MR. DILLON expressed his regret that the right hon. Gentlemen had not been able to accept the Amendment. This was a matter of great importance. He did not believe that a respectable landlord would exercise this right, but the law was made to restrain not the reasonable or fair landlord, but the unreasonable landlord. If a landlord on an ejectment got two years' rent paid in cash, he must be a harsh man if he would not accept that as a reasonable discharge of the debt. But to give him, after the ejectment proceedings had been quashed by the payment of two years' rent, the right of proceeding forthwith on another and harsher method of ejecting the man out of his holding, appeared to him to take away from the tenant, in regard to the bad landlords, all real protection in this matter.

*MR. SERJEANT HEMPHILL thought the right hon. Gentleman was not quite correct in saying that the landlord would be in the same position as any other creditor with regard to the rent over and above the two years' rent. The landlord was in a much better position than any other creditor. Supposing a landlord recovered the two years' rent on an ejectment and there still remained two other years' rent due. The very day after he got his decree of ejectment he could maintain an action for the other two years' rent. He recovered judgment on the foot of those latter two years' rent and he could then put the sheriff in. The sheriff sold the tenant's interest and the landlord bought it in and might then maintain an ejectment on the title and so recover possession of the holding.

*SIR J. COLOMB moved to add at the end of the clause the words,

"and such debt shall have priority over all mortgages or other charges placed upon the lands by the tenant, or by the creditor of any tenant."

He remarked that the clause prevented the landlord from recovering by process of ejectment more than two years' rent, and the object of the Amendment was to make the arrears beyond that sum a prior charge upon the land. Anyone who knew Ireland was aware how necessary it was to have some provision of this nature in the interest of the tenant himself. It was pretty certain that when the tenant came to owe so large an amount to the landlord, he owed yet a great deal more to the shopkeepers and other persons. The reason in many cases why the tenant was allowed to accumulate large amounts of arrears was that the too considerate landlord, who knew the difficulties the man was in, wished to give him time. ["Hear, hear!"] In those matters he thought they should consider the interests of the smaller landlords, and there were no fewer than 62,000 in Ireland owning less than 500 acres each. He agreed entirely with the principle of preventing the large accumulation of rent, but where that took place some regard should be had to the other debts the tenant owes, in the interests of the tenant and landlord alike.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said it was impossible to accept the Amendment. The effect of the words would be to appropriate the tenant's holding for the payment of arrears.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 13,—

PROCEDURE.—AMENDMENTS OF PROCEDURE AS TO LIMITED REPRESENTATION OF DECEASED PERSON.

On any application under the Land Law Acts, as amended by this Act, an order may, subject to the prescribed regulations, be made by the court, appointing some person limited administrator of a deceased person for the purpose of such application, and such order may be made whether such deceased person did or did not die before the application, or make a will which was not proved.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved to leave out the words "subject to the prescribed regulations."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved to add at the end of the clause—

"It is hereby declared that the court had power, at any time since the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, to make such an order as in this section is mentioned."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 14,—

GROUND OF APPEAL TO BE STATED.

"Rules under Section 50 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act may provide that, subject to the qualifications (if any) contained in those rules, every notice of appeal shall state the grounds of appeal, and on the hearing of the appeal no grounds of appeal shall be entered into except those so stated. For the purpose of this section 'appeal' includes 'rehearing.'"

MR. SMITH-BARRY moved to omit Clause 14, which he believed would increase expense and lead to great hardships in rehearings.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said nothing was more unsatisfactory than rehearings. He thought the clause as it stood was too rigid, and he should be quite willing to insert after the word "shall" the words "save by leave of the Court," so that the Court might decide whether other points might be raised.

MR. T. M. HEALY protested against the proposal of the right hon. and learned Member, and cited the analogous case of a voter.

Amendment negatived.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND moved to insert, after the word "Act," "1881."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved to insert, after the word "appeal," the words "under the Land Law Acts."

Amendment agreed to.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND moved to insert, after the word "shall," the words "save by leave of the Court."

MR. T. M. HEALY suggested the addition to the Amendment of the words "to be given only on special grounds," which he thought would make a way out of the bungle. If those words were not accepted, let the clause be struck out altogether. What good was it to the tenants? The courts had shown themselves for the last 15 years to be landlords' courts——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not in Order in speaking in that way of Her Majesty's Courts.

MR. HARRINGTON said the hon. Member for North Louth was proceeding on the assumption that no one appealed but the landlords. It was a common thing for the tenant to appeal as well as the landlord, and he thought it was well, for the protection of the tenant that such an application should be made to the Court.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said the object of the clause was just and equitable, but the Amendment would render it nugatory. The Court had for years tried to do by rule what they were now attempting to do by statute.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved to insert, after the Attorney General's Amendment, the words "but shall be granted only on special grounds."

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) thought the Amendment should not be accepted.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR could not see that the words were unreasonable, and therefore accepted them. [*Nationalist cheers.*]

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 15,—

PART II.

LAND COMMISSION AND LAND JUDGE.—REGULATIONS AS TO INTERCHANGE OF DUTIES OF THE LAND JUDGE AND THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

(1.) The Lord Chancellor, the Land Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court, and the Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission, or any two of them (of whom the Lord

Chancellor shall be one) may make rules for the following purposes, namely:—

(*a*) To enable the Land Judge to act as an additional Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission—

(i) in any matter arising under the Land Purchase Acts as amended by this Act; or

(ii) in any appeal or rehearing under the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act;

(*b*) To enable the Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission to exercise any jurisdiction, powers, and duties, so far as existing at the commencement of this Act,

(i) of the High Court or any judge thereof, either as successors of the Landed Estates Court and the judges thereof, or under the Record of Title (Ireland) Act, 1865, or the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891; and

(ii) of the Land Judge and of the Receiver Judge under any enactment conferring any jurisdiction upon either of such judges as such;

(*c*) To enable the High Court to distribute the proceeds of any sale under the Land Purchase Acts, and to enable the Land Commission to carry into effect any sale under those Acts ordered by the High Court.

(2.) For carrying into effect any such rules, and exercising the jurisdiction, powers, and duties arising thereunder, the Land Judge shall be deemed to be an additional Judicial Commissioner of the Land Commission, and the Judicial Commissioner shall be deemed to be an additional Land Judge.

(3.) The Land Judge, as respects officers of the Supreme Court who are attached to such Judge, or otherwise employed in or about the execution of any such jurisdiction, powers, and duties as may under this section be exercised by the Judicial Commissioner, and the Judicial Commissioner, so far as respects the officers of the Land Commission, may direct those officers to perform such duties as he thinks fit under the Land Commission or under the Land Judge, as the case may be, and those officers shall perform those duties.

(4.) The Land Judge and the Judicial Land Commissioner may also make regulations for carrying into effect any rules made in pursuance of this Section, and for the mutual relations between the Land Judge and the officers of the Supreme Court on the one side, and the Land Commission and their officers on the other, and in particular for the payment into the High Court of money to be distributed among the parties entitled thereto, and for the Land Commission carrying into effect any sales under the Land Purchase Acts ordered by the High Court.

(5.) Sub-sections two and three of section fifty of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, shall apply to rules made under this section.

(6.) The first rules under this section shall be made as soon as practicable after the commencement of this Act.

(7.) Such rules shall provide that the Court of the Land Commission in Dublin shall be holden at the Four Courts, Dublin, and not elsewhere.

Mr. DILLON moved to omit paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), which he regarded as one of the most objectionable in the Bill. He called attention to the appointment of Mr. Justice Ross as Land Judge, and asked what security was there that this Judge would not adjudicate on one of the sales in the Land Judges' Court, and then have one of his own adjudications as to the proper price referred back to him acting as Land Judge. He cited an incident in the Land Judges' Court in Dublin on Friday last in connection with the sale of an estate in which Mr. Justice Ross described an order of Mr. Commissioner O'Brien as ridiculous. It was monstrous to bring Mr. Justice Ross into this Court, seeing that he was so well known as a strong partisan; and he looked upon this clause as cutting the Commission in two in the interest of the landlord party. The Government ought to look elsewhere for an impartial Commissioner, because the administration of the Land Laws was of very great consequence in Ireland.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY thought the hon. Member would not be surprised when he said that the Government could not depart from the policy they had laid down on many previous occasions during the last few years. The hon. Member had expressed a fear lest the Land Judge should not be an impartial member of the Land Court. He would remind the hon. Gentleman that every attempt to strengthen the Land Court had taken the form of bringing in the Land Judge into the Commission, long before anybody ever conjectured that Mr. Justice Ross would be the Land Judge at some time or other. The Government certainly had no personal view in the matter, and they had no desire to bring into the Commission a Judge sympathising with either party in the agrarian dispute in Ireland.

He hoped the hon. Member would not press the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. GEDGE said he rose to make an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman—[*cries of* "No!" *from the Nationalists*]—and with a view to putting himself in order he would move the adjournment of the Debate. ["No, no!" *and an* HON. MEMBER: "Bosh."] Hon. Members were kept in the House till 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning, they had been in the House already 12½ hours, and they had to meet again at 12 o'clock. He wished to remind the right hon. Gentleman that when the House consented last week to suspend the 12 o'clock Rule, they were told that there was no intention on the part of the Government to have all-night sittings, but if this Bill was to be finished there must be an all-night sitting. ["No, no!"] He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to let hon. Members go home now.

*MR. SPEAKER asked if any hon. Member seconded the Motion, and, there being no response, declared that the Motion fell to the ground.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR moved to leave out the words "shall be holden at the Four Courts, Dublin, and not elsewhere," and to insert—

"when hearing appeals, or rehearing cases, or hearing such other matters as may be prescribed shall be held at the Four Courts, Dublin."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 16,—

POWER TO NOMINATE JUDGE TO ACT AS ADDITIONAL LAND JUDGE FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

The Lord Chancellor may nominate any judge of the High Court with his consent to act for the time specified by the Lord Chancellor as an additional Land Judge for the purposes of the Record of Title (Ireland) Act, 1865, and the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and the judge so nominated shall have during that time the jurisdiction of the Land Judge for those purposes.

*First Lord of the Treasury.*

MR. T. M. HEALY moved, after the word "may," to insert the words "while no vacancy in the judiciary exists." When such a vacancy existed the Treasury were pocketing £3,500 a year, which ought to go to Ireland in some form.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR appealed to the hon. and learned Gentleman not to press his Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that in the circumstances he would not take up the time of the House in pressing his Amendment, which he therefore asked leave to withdraw.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 17,—

## PART III.

LAND PURCHASE.—ALTERATION OF MODE OF CALCULATING PURCHASE ANNUITY.

(1.) In the case of every advance under the Land Purchase Acts made after the commencement of this Act the purchase annuity shall be calculated and payable—

(*a*) during the first decade of the annuity, upon the total advance; and

(*b*) during the second and third decades, upon the portion of the advance which is ascertained, as provided by this section, to be unpaid at the end of the previous decade; and

(*c*) after the end of the third decade, upon the portion of the advance which is ascertained, as provided by this section, to be then unpaid,

and shall continue to be paid until the whole advance is ascertained, as provided by this section, to have been repaid.

(2.) The Land Commission shall, in accordance with such rules as the Treasury may make—

(*a*) at the end of each of the said decades ascertain how much of the advance has been repaid by means of the accumulation during the decade of that portion of the purchase annuity which represents repayment of capital, and the residue of the advance shall be the unpaid amount upon which the subsequent annuity is to be calculated and paid; and

(*b*) ascertain when the whole advance has been repaid by means of the accumulation of that portion of the purchase annuity which represents repayment of capital.

(3.) If the proprietor of a holding charged with an annuity applies to the Land Commission within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner, prior to the end of each of the said decades, that the annuity during the next decade shall not be reduced under this section, no alteration of the annuity shall then be made.

(4.) The amount of the annuity, when re-calculated as provided by this section, shall be certified by the Land Commission, and that certificate shall be conclusive for all purposes, and shall be sent by them for registration to the registration authority under the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891.

(5.) The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply in the case of an annuity for any advance made under the Land Purchase Acts before the commencement of this Act, subject as follows:—

(*a*) where more than 10 years have elapsed since an annuity for the repayment of the advance began, the amount of the advance remaining unpaid shall be ascertained as at the end of the last completed decade since that beginning, and the reduction of the annuity in the current decade shall date from the gale day next after the commencement of this Act;

(*b*) In a case where purchaser's insurance money has been paid, the amount so paid, and not set off against arrears, shall be taken into account at the end of the first decade, as if it were a portion of the purchase annuity which represents repayment of capital; and the provisions with respect to setting off against arrears purchaser's insurance money so paid shall not apply after the end of such decade.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, in paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (5), after the word "from," to insert the words "and including."

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he was afraid that the effect of the Amendment would be unsatisfactory.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that he had been rather doubtful of the meaning of the Government, and therefore he had moved the Amendment in order to obtain an explanation of it. He begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 18,—

### APPLICATION OF PART OF ACT TO ANNUITIES UNDER 32 & 33 VICT. C. 42.

The foregoing provisions with respect to the calculation of a purchase annuity may be applied by the Land Commissioners with the necessary modifications, to the calculation of the instalments of an annuity by means of which any mortgage debt is payable under section fifty-two of the Irish Church Act, 1869, and the Acts amending the same.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR moved to insert at the beginning of the clause:—

"The Land Commission, upon the application of any person liable to pay interest on any simple mortgage under section fifty-two of the Irish Church Act, 1869, may, if they think fit, by order convert that mortgage into a mortgage to secure repayment of the principal of the mortgage debt then outstanding, with interest at the rate of three and one-eighth per centum per annum, by means of an annuity at the rate of four per centum per annum on the said principal, payable by half-yearly payments on the days fixed for the payment of the interest on the said mortgage, until the whole principal has been repaid, and such order shall be binding upon all persons interested, whether in the equity of redemption of such mortgages or otherwise."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 20,—

### ABOLITION OF PURCHASER'S INSURANCE MONEY.

In the case of any advance after the commencement of this Act for the purchase of a holding purchaser's insurance money shall not be payable.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved, after the word "holding," to insert the words—

"and also in the case of any instalment of a purchase annuity which shall become payable after the passing of this Act."

It was, he said, a total mistake that it would make any trouble to calculate the annuities, because all they would have to find out would be how much 4 per cent. of the purchase money was. The number of cases would be small. The Land Commission had practically nullified the purchaser's insurance clause, and so fixed the fair value as to prevent the purchaser's insurance provisions having any operation at all. It was all the more unjust that in the limited number of cases this unfair state of the law should prevail.

MR. T. M. HEALY: As the Land Commission have given us a great deal of trouble, we return the compliment. [*Laughter.*]

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR**: It is merely a question of trouble. On the question of principle I think the hon. Gentleman is right, and, therefore, the Government will accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. MAURICE HEALY** moved at the end of the clause to add—

"In the case of a purchase annuity payable at the date of the commencement of this Act, the amount of the purchase annuity as from the date of such commencement shall be certified by the Land Commission, and sent by them for registration to the registration authority under The Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 21,—

AS TO GUARANTEE DEPOSIT.

(1.) The Land Commission on making an advance may dispense with the whole or any part of the guarantee deposit being made or retained if they think the security for the repayment of the advance is sufficient without it.

(2.) The Land Commission may, if they think fit, on application, pay to the persons entitled thereto the whole or any part of the guarantee deposit made or retained in respect of advances under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, except in a case where any part of the deposit has been actually applied in pursuance of the Land Purchase Acts.

(3.) In the case of any advance made otherwise than under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, the Land Commission may pay out of the guarantee deposit to the person entitled thereto a sum equal to the portion of the advance which at the end of any decade is ascertained under the provisions of this Act to have been repaid.

**Mr. MAURICE HEALY** moved, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words—

"pay out of the guarantee deposit to the person entitled thereto a sum equal to the portion of the advance which at the end of any decade is ascertained under the provisions of this Act to have been repaid."

and to insert instead thereof—

"if they think fit on application at any time after the end of the first decade of the purchase annuity pay to the persons entitled thereto the whole or any part of the guarantee deposit, except in a case where any part of the deposit has been actually applied in pursuance of the Land Purchase Acts."

The hon. Member observed that he moved an Amendment somewhat stronger than this in Committee. This proposal was really in the interest of the landlord. It merely provided that where the tenant had faithfully paid his purchase instalment for 10 years, then the landlord should have the guarantee deposit paid to him. If the tenant purchaser went on paying for 10 years, it might fairly be taken that the State was secured, and the Amendment was one which might well be accepted.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** was afraid the objections which he urged in the Committee stage still held good, and that he could not, therefore, accept the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 22,—

EXPEDITING PROCEEDINGS ON SALES.

(1.) Where an agreement has been made for the purchase of a holding, and the Land Commission consider that the purchase money is adequate in amount, and are satisfied that the persons purporting to be the landlord or his mortgagee has, by himself or by his agent, or a receiver, been, for not less than six years, in receipt of the rents of the holding, and have ascertained in the prescribed manner that the estate in respect of which such person claims as landlord is sufficient to constitute him a person having power to sell under the Land Purchase Acts, he shall be deemed to be *prima facie* entitled to carry such agreement into effect; but if it appears to the Land Commission that the said estate is a leasehold for years not renewable for ever, they shall cause the prescribed notice to be given to the person who is entitled in reversion on the expiration of the lease. Provided always, that where the Land Commission are satisfied that the landlord has a good and marketable title to the holding they shall not be required to consider whether the purchase money is adequate in amount.

(2.) Where the Land Commission are satisfied that the persons purporting to be the landlord and the tenant are prima facie entitled to carry into effect an agreement for the purchase of a holding, and sanction an advance for the purchase of a holding, they shall, as soon as may be, make a vesting order to the effect that the amount of the advance be paid into the High Court to the prescribed credit to abide the order of that Court, and that on such payment the holding shall vest in the purchaser.

(3.) The vesting order shall be effectual to vest in the purchaser, and charge the purchase annuity on, the fee simple and inheritance of the holding purchased, subject—

(*a*) to such exceptions and reservations (if any) as may be specified in the agreement for purchase and approved by the Land Commission respecting any right reserved to the vendor or superior landlord as to mines, timber, and fishery, or other rights; and

(*b*) to any public rights affecting the holding; and

(*c*) to the provisions of this Act respecting the tenant's interest, and respecting easements, rights, and privileges;

but, save as aforesaid, discharged from all claims, whether estates, charges, reservations, covenants, conditions, interests or incumbrances whatsoever, as well as of Her Majesty the Queen, and any superior landlord, as of all other persons whomsoever (except the tenant and persons claiming under him) who are interested in the holding, whether as incumbrancers or otherwise, and all such claims shall cease as against the holding, and shall attach to the purchase money paid into the High Court in respect of the holding, in like manner as immediately before the sale they attached to the holding.

(4.) The money so paid into the High Court shall be distributed and dealt with by that Court in like manner as if it were the proceeds of the sale of an estate sold under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, and for the purpose of such distribution of or dealing with the said money, the High Court may, if it appears to such Court necessary, ascertain the amount or value of such claims as above mentioned, and cause that amount or value to be discharged, redeemed, or satisfied out of the said money.

(5.) The vesting order shall be an order securing an advance within the meaning of Section 18 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, and that section shall apply accordingly.

(6.) The interest vested by the vesting order in the purchaser shall be deemed to be a graft upon the previous interest of the tenant in the holding, and shall be subject to any rights or equities arising from its being such graft: Provided that any then subsisting charge on such previous interest which was created under any Act in respect of some improvement on the holding, shall be a charge on the estate vested in the purchaser by the vesting order next after the purchase-annuity.

(7.) If any guarantee deposit is paid or retained, the amount thereof shall be excepted from the payment into the High Court, and held by the Land Commission, but the vesting order shall take effect and the right to the deposit be determined, as if the amount had been paid into that Court with the rest of the purchase money.

(8.) Where the Judicial Commissioner certifies that the estate is free from incumbrances (as defined by the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887), and that the purchase money can be paid or distributed immediately, the advance need not be paid into the High Court, and this section shall apply in like manner as if it were so paid.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.) moved to omit Clause 22, in order to obtain an explanation from the Government with regard to its provisions. So far as he understood the clause, its operation would have the effect of discouraging landlords from endeavouring to make sales. He could not imagine that that was the intention, for the whole object of Unionist policy had been to encourage purchase.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that up to this time an agreement for sale made in these Courts was not carried out until the landlord's title was ascertained to be good and marketable. The result was that a delay of two, three, and sometimes four years took place between the time the tenant signed the agreement and the time when he got his conveyance. During that period he was not bound to pay his rent, but he paid four per cent., and then, in the event of the purchase going off, he was remitted to his original right. The object of the clause was to provide that the Court should not investigate, in the first place, whether the landlord had really a good title or not. If it found that he had a *prima facie* good title, if it found him dealing as owner with a holding for a certain time, the Court should then validate the agreement between him and the tenant, and should sell to the tenant, vest the property in him, have the purchase money lodged in Court, and allow any question affecting the landlord's title to be fought out over the purchase money and not over the land. But that meant that everything would be expedited and a great deal of the costs be saved to the landlord. The only inconvenience he might possibly experience was that his money might be locked up for some time in Court. But even on that point he wished to point out that the moment an incumbrance was ascertained to be a valid incumbrance it could in many cases be immediately paid off and only the balance after payment retained in Court.

**Mr. KNOX** doubted whether the clause, without some modification, would meet the real interests of both parties. He thought it was, to a large extent, a great improvement, but he believed that unless proof of title in Court was simplified——

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** was understood to say it would be simplified.

**Mr. KNOX** said that would, to a large extent, meet his point.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** moved, in Sub-section (1), after the words "satisfied that," to insert the words "the person purporting to be."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** moved, in Sub-section (1), after the words "title to," to insert the words "his interest in."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. MAURICE HEALY** moved, in paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (3), to leave out the words "as to mines, timber and fishery, or other rights."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** moved, in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (3), after the word "rights," to insert—

"in any case in which the Land Commission is satisfied in the prescribed manner that the effect of such reservation was explained to and understood by the purchaser, or the purchaser is represented by a solicitor other than the vendor's solicitor."

He remarked it was understood that the Government had undertaken to provide for this point. He should be quite satisfied that, where the tenant had a separate solicitor, he should have no protection, but where a tenant had no separate solicitor, he should be protected by the Land Commissioners being satisfied that he knew of and fully understood the reservation.

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. KNOX** moved to add at the end of the clause :—

(9.) "The Land Commission or the High Court shall not in any case be empowered to make any further requisitions as to title than a purchaser would be entitled to make under the Vendor and Purchaser Act, 1874, or any Act amending the same."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** moved, after the Amendment last inserted, to add :—

"The provisions of this section and of any other enactment in this Act with respect to purchase money and the payment thereof into court or otherwise shall, where the advance is made by means of guaranteed land stock, apply to that stock and to transfer thereof into court or otherwise, and enactments relating to the payment shall be construed accordingly."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 24,—

AS TO REDEMPTION OR APPORTIONMENT OF ANNUITIES, RENTCHARGES, ETC., UNDER 50 & 51 VICT. C. 33. SS. 15, 16.

(1.) For the purpose of the distribution of, or other dealing with, an advance paid into the High Court under this Act, sections fifteen and sixteen of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, and any other unrepealed enactment in the Land Purchase Acts, or this Act, relating to the redemption or apportionment of charges on holdings or otherwise to the distribution of the purchase money of a holding, shall apply as if the High Court were the Land Commission and the money paid into that Court were the holding.

(2.) Where any annuity, rentcharge, or rent, ordered under the said sections to be redeemed is subject to any incumbrance as defined by the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, the High Court shall have the same power in relation to that incumbrance under the said section fifteen as that Court would have if the incumbrance were charged upon the land sold.

(3.) For the purpose of an agreement respecting the redemption price of any annuity, rentcharge, or rent apportioned under the said section sixteen, the High Court may determine the parties by whom such agreement may be made or by whom the consent may be given for the determination of the price by the High Court.

(4.) The said sections as amended by this section shall apply to any contingent liability for any annuity, rentcharge, or rent, in like manner as they apply to the annuity, rentcharge, or rent itself, and where any contingent liability has no appreciable value, the money may be distributed without regard to such liability.

**MR. KILBRIDE** moved to add at the end of the clause the following new Sub-section :—

(5.) "That the twentieth section of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, be retrospective and apply to the reversion expectant on the termination of any lease."

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND** said this Amendment could not be accepted in its present form.

**MR. KILBRIDE**: Will the right hon. and learned Gentleman suggest what words should be inserted? [*Cries of* "No, no."]

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 26,—

LIABILITY FOR ARREARS OF RENT, AND INTEREST ON PURCHASE MONEY AFTER AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE.

(1.) Where an agreement for the purchase of a holding is made after the commencement of this Act, and the Land Commission have sanctioned an advance for such purchase, the purchaser shall be discharged from all liability to the vendor in respect of any liabilities affecting the holding at the date of the agreement, including all rent and arrears existing at such date; but if the advance is refused the agreement shall be void, and the tenant shall be liable to pay rent as if from the gale day prior to such refusal.

(2.) Interest at the rate agreed on, on the purchase money from the date of the said agreement until the day from which the purchase-annuity begins, shall be payable half-yearly on the first day of May and first day of November by the purchaser, and shall be paid to, and be collected and recoverable by, the Land Commission, in like manner as if it were an instalment of the purchase-annuity charged upon the holding, and when received by them shall be paid to the person in receipt of the rent at the date of the agreement or such other person as may prove himself to be entitled thereto, and if the advance is refused shall, unless the agreement otherwise provides, be allowed by the landlord to the tenant as a payment on account of rent.

***SIR J. COLOMB** moved in sub-section (1) to leave out the word "sanctioned" and insert instead thereof the word "made." He thought that the change was a sweeping and disastrous one. At present when the landlord and tenant made an agreement of sale and purchase, all arrears and debts due to the landlord were to cease and determine on the advance being made, but the sanction was a very different thing to the advance being made. The position would be, unless this Amendment were accepted, that the Land Commission might sanction the sale at a less price than that which the landlord had agreed to. The landlord might refuse to go on, and the tenant would have his debts wiped out. He did not blame the Chief Secretary, but he did blame his legal adviser the Attorney General.

***THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND** said he did not feel the blame, because the hon. Gentleman was hopelessly wrong, and if he would read for himself the second section he would see that, under the existing system, the advance was not made, although the agreement might be sanctioned, until the landlord's title was ascertained. That might take a considerable time. Under the clause, the moment that the Land Commission approved of the agreement and were willing to make the advance, they made an Order vesting in the tenant the land, so that there was no interval of time between the sanctioning of the agreement and the vesting Order.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**MR. T. M. HEALY** moved to insert after the words "for such purchase," the words, "such sanction shall be signified by an Order and." It was not safe for either the landlord or the tenant that any loose practices should be allowed in the office of the Land Commission. He therefore thought that those gentlemen, after they had sanctioned a purchase, should write out an Order giving the particulars of the transaction.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 26,—

LIABILITY FOR ARREARS OF RENT, AND INTEREST ON PURCHASE MONEY AFTER AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE.

(1) Where an agreement for the purchase of a holding is made after the commencement of this Act, and the Land Commission have sanctioned an advance for such purchase, the purchaser shall be discharged from all liability to the vendor in respect of any liabilities affecting the holding at the date of the agreement, including all rent and arrears existing at such date; but if the advance is refused

the agreement shall be void, and the tenant shall be liable to pay rent as if *from the gale day prior to such refusal.*

(2.) Interest at the rate agreed on, on the purchase money from the date of the said agreement until the day from which the purchase-annuity begins, shall be payable half-yearly on the first day of May and first day of November by the purchaser, and shall be paid to, and be collected and recoverable by, the Land Commission, in like manner as if it were an instalment of the purchase annuity charged upon the holding, and when received by them shall be paid to the person in receipt of the rent at the date of the agreement or such other person as may prove himself to be entitled thereto, and if the advance is refused shall, unless the agreement otherwise provides, be allowed by the landlord to the tenant as a payment on account of rent.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR asked the House to go back on a decision of the Committee. In Committee they inserted the words in Clause 26 "from the gale day prior to such refusal" [printed above in italics]. He proposed that the words of the original clause, "as if the agreement had not been made," should be restored, the effect of which was that if the advance was refused the parties would be in the same position as if negotiations had not taken place at all.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan, Mid) moved the adjournment of the Debate.

*Mr. SPEAKER refused to put the Motion, on the ground that a similar Motion was made only a short time before, and was not supported by a single Member. [*Cheers.*]

Clause 29,—

### SALE OF HOLDING BY LAND COMMISSION.

(1.) The Land Commission upon the sale of a holding under Section 30 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, or under any power of sale, may sell the holding in lots.

(2.) Section 15 of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1885, as amended by this Act, shall extend to a sale of a holding by the Land Commission, as successors to the Commissioners of Church Temporalities in Ireland.

(3.) Where a holding is subject to the future payment of an annuity, and the Land Commission sell it in lots, or a portion of any such holding is required for any of the purposes mentioned in Section 5 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, for which a holding may be resumed, the Land Commission may apportion the annuity in such manner as they deem expedient, or may, if they think fit, make an order discharging any such portion of the holding as aforesaid from any further liability for such annuity, or any part thereof, or any arrears thereof.

(4.) Where the Land Commission sell a holding, the purchase money shall be paid and distributed as if it were the purchase money of a holding sold by a landlord to a tenant.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR moved in Sub-section (3) to leave out the words—

"a portion of any such holding is required for any of the purposes mentioned in Section 5 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, for which a holding may be resumed,"

in order to insert instead thereof the words—

"in the exercise of their powers under the Land Purchase Acts authorise the sub-division of the holding."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 31,—

### SALES UNDER THE LANDED ESTATES COURT ACT.

(1.) Where an absolute order for the sale of an estate, comprising holdings to which this section applies has been made under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, and either a receiver has been appointed over the estate or the estate is so circumstanced that it would independently of this Act be sold without the consent of the owner as to price, the following provisions shall have effect:—

(*a*) The Land Commission shall, at the request of the Land Judge, cause the estate to be inspected, and a report to be made by two Commissioners respecting the estate, and the circumstances thereof, and the price at, and the conditions under which, the sale of the holdings to the tenants under the Land Purchase Acts can properly be made.

(*b*) The Land Judge, after giving all parties, including the tenants, an opportunity of being heard, and considering the report and any offers that may be made for the purchase of the estate or any part thereof, and any other matters that may be brought before him, and the general circumtances of the estate, shall make to the person appearing to be in occupation as tenant of each holding on the estate, an offer to sell to him the fee-simple of the holding, and the arrears of rent then due from him in respect thereof, at such price, and subject to such condition, whether as to the payment of part of the price in cash, or as to the offer to one tenant being conditional on the acceptance by other tenants of the offers made to them within a limited time, or otherwise, as the Land Judge may consider reasonable and just, having regard to the interest of all persons interested in the estate.

(*c*.) The offer shall be communicated in such manner as the Land Commission think fit to the person appearing to be in occupation as tenant, and if it is accepted then on fulfilment of the conditions the said person shall be deemed to have agreed to purchase the holding within the meaning of the Land Purchase Acts, and the sale shall be completed accordingly.

(*d*.) If it appears to the Land Judge that the tenants of holdings on the estate to the extent of not less than three-fourths in number and value according to the rateable value under the Irish Valuation Acts, have accepted the offers under this section, he may, if having regard to the circumstances of the case he thinks it expedient, order that the remaining tenants or any of them shall be deemed to have accepted the offers made to them, and this section and the Land Purchase Acts shall apply accordingly; provided that such order shall not apply to any tenant if the purchase-money of his holding would exceed the limitation on the amount of the advance imposed by section two of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1888, and the holding of such tenant shall not be taken into consideration in estimating the three-fourths above mentioned.

(*e*.) Where a receiver has been appointed over part of an estate this section shall apply to that part in like manner as if it were an estate.

(*f*.) The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply only to holdings which are agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral.

(2.) Any person in occupation of and paying rent for a parcel of land (including the owner of an estate in occupation of a mansion house or demesne forming part of the estate) held under a letting by the Land Judge or Receiver Judge may agree to purchase such parcel of land, and the same shall be deemed a holding and such person a tenant, and the Land Judge or Receiver Judge, as the case may be, a landlord within the meaning of the Land Purchase Acts.

(3.) At any time after an absolute order for the sale of an estate or part of an estate has been made in pursuance of the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, the foregoing provisions of this section so far as they are applicable may upon the application of the owner be applied to such estate, although a receiver has not been appointed over the estate, and the estate is not so circumstanced that it would, independently of this Act, be sold without the consent of the owner as to price; provided that no advance shall be made to the owner to purchase any mansion house or demesne forming part of the estate.

(4.) Rules under Part Two of this Act may be made for carrying into effect this section.

**Sir R. PENROSE FITZGERALD** (Cambridge) moved to omit Clause 31. His main object in doing so was to call attention to the fact that for the first time the clause practically inserted the thin end of the wedge of compulsory purchase. It first of all sanctioned compulsory sale against the wish or consent of the legal owner; it would possibly interfere with the tenants also, and it imported compulsory interference with the discretion of the mortgagees. He thought it would be a hard case, and contrary to the interests of Ireland, if those men, who were living on their estates and doing what good they could, were compulsorily sold up without having the chance of redeeming their property. ["Hear, hear!"]

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** said he honestly believed this was one of the most valuable clauses in the Bill for the landlords. He would ask the landlords to take a cool opinion from some unprejudiced persons as to whether this Bill by its purchase clauses would not shoot sovereigns into their pockets. This clause would bring forward the money of the Treasury to their aid and prevent the lowering of the land market. That any landlord should object to it, to use the expression of a learned judge in Ireland, simply capsized his intelligence. [*Laughter.*]

***Sir J. COLOMB** called attention to the amount of money invested in Irish property by English and Scotch insurance offices, which he put at £7,000,000. He saw that an organ of hon. Gentlemen opposite welcomed this clause because it would hit these insurance companies, and they regarded it as a commencement of a fresh agrarian revolution; and he protested against the clause because he believed it would hit those who deserved, perhaps, more than others, the protection of Parliament.

Motion negatived.

Clause 32,—

APPEALS UNDER LAND PURCHASE ACT.

Any person aggrieved by the order of a Land Commissioner acting alone in carrying the Land Purchase Acts as amended by this Act into effect, may, if such Commissioner was not a Judicial Commissioner and the question is one of law, require the case to be reheard by a Judicial Commissioner, and in any other case may require the question to be reconsidered by a Judicial Commissioner and two other Commissioners; provided that the Judicial Commissioner thinks it desirable the case shall be re-heard by those three Commissioners.

**Mr. DILLON** moved to leave out the word "a,"—("a Judicial Commissioner")—and to insert instead thereof the word "the."

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** said that he could not accept the Amendment.

Amendment negatived.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** moved, after the word "Commissioners," to insert the words,—

"One of whom shall be a Commissioner appointed under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act 1885, except where, owing to absence, illness, or a vacancy in office, such a Commissioner is not available."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** moved to transpose Clauses 39 and 40 after Clause 12.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 39,—

PROVISION FOR AGREEMENTS BY LANDLORDS AND TENANTS IN CERTAIN CASES.

(1.) The landlord and tenant of any holding may at any time (whether a statutory term is current in respect of the holding or not) agree in the prescribed manner in regard to all or any of the matters following:—

(*a.*) the consolidation of the holding with any other holding or portion of a holding or the making of any addition to the holding;

*Sir J. Colomb.*

(*b.*) the assignment or surrender of portion of the holding;

(*c.*) the creation of a present tenancy in any holding;

(*d.*) the abridgement of any statutory term in the holding; and

(*e.*) the fair rent of the holding and the date at which the statutory term is to commence and the duration thereof.

(2) Where any such agreement is made the tenancy in the holding shall (in the absence of a provision to the contrary) as and from the date of the agreement be a present tenancy.

(3) Any such agreement on being filed in the prescribed manner with the Land Commission shall have the same effect and consequences in all respects as if the matters agreed to therein had been determined by the Land Commission.

**Mr. MAURICE HEALY** moved in Paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1) after the word "holding" to insert the words "the partition of division of the holding."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 41,—

PART VI.

SUPPLEMENTAL. DEFINITIONS.

(1.) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

The expression "dwelling-house" includes any out-house, curtilage, and garden appurtenant thereto:

The expressions "landlord" and "tenant" include respectively the predecessors in title of a landlord or tenant:

The expression "limited owner" means a limited owner within the meaning of Section twenty-six of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, and includes any person having the powers of a tenant for life under the Settled Land Acts, 1882 to 1890:

The expression "lease" includes an agreement for a lease:

The expression "Land Law Acts" means the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, except Part V. thereof, the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, except Part II., and the Redemption of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1891, and does not include the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, except so far as the provisions of it are necessary for giving effect to the above-mentioned portion of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881:

The expression "Land Purchase Acts" means the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, the Land Purchase Acts as therein defined, and the Redemption of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1891:

The expression "judicial rent" means a fair rent, whether fixed by the Court or by agreement or by arbitration or by demand of the landlord accepted by the tenant, and any reference to an application to fix a fair rent shall include a reference to an agreement to fix a fair rent or to refer to arbitration the fixing of a fair rent, or to the demand of an increased rent by the landlord:

The expression "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made by the Land Commission, save that where the expression refers to financial matters it shall mean prescribed by rules made by the Treasury, and where the expression relates to matters connected with the Land Judge, it shall mean prescribed by rules made under Part Two of this Act:

The expression "Receiver Judge" means the Judge assigned under Section nineteen of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1885, for the execution of the duties in that section mentioned.

(2.) In the definition of "holding" contained in the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, "parcel of land" shall be deemed to include an undivided share of land, whether held alone, or held under the same contract of tenancy with land held in severalty.

(3.) Any jurisdiction vested by this Act in the High Court in relation to the purchase money under the Land Purchase Acts, or otherwise in relation to these Acts, shall, subject to rules of Court, be exercised by the Land Judge.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR moved to insert in the fifth paragraph of Sub-section (1), after the words "except Part II., and," to insert—

"The Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1888, and the Timber (Ireland) Act, 1888, and the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1888, Amendment Act, 1889, and."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. T. M. HEALY moved, in Sub-section (1), after the words—

"The expression 'Land Purchase Acts' means the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, the Land Purchase Acts as therein defined, and the Redemption of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1891,"

to insert—

"The expression 'permanent building,' shall include embankments, structures, excavations, deepenings of rivers or watercourses, or other works effected for agricultural purposes and having a permanent character."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR moved to insert instead thereof—

"The expression 'permanent building' shall include river and sea embankments, having a permanent character."

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked the Government to include the deepening of rivers and watercourses. Take the case of Lough Erne. Was he to be told that nothing was to be allowed to the tenants for the work they had done in connection with the drainage there? If a lough like the Erne, or a river like the Bann, were drained, the money borrowed in effecting improvements of that kind ought not to be lost to the tenant. When the landlord paid for any of the work he received consideration for it. There was hardly a drainage Act in which there was not a provision that a certain amount should be added on to the rent in consequence of the landlord's expenditure. In the same way where the tenant had to bear his portion of the charges he should have similar treat-accorded him.

Colonel SAUNDERSON remarked that if the proposal of the hon. and learned Member were carried out in Ireland a permanent building could be erected by digging a hole in the bottom of a river.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 42,—

### SAVING OF ULSTER TENANT-RIGHT CUSTOM.

Nothing herein contained shall prejudice or affect any right, benefit, or presumption exercised or enjoyed under or by virtue of the Ulster tenant-right custom or any usage corresponding thereto.

Mr. DILLON proposed, at the end of the clause to insert the words—

"In the province of Ulster a holding shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be subject to the Ulster tenant-right custom."

This matter had been fully debated in Committee, and he would now like to hear whether the Government were prepared to make any concession upon the subject.

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR** said they had turned this question about in every way to see what could be done with it, but the objections which had been stated in Committee seemed quite fatal to its acceptance. They could not define the Ulster custom except by referring to some common point which would represent the minimum of the Ulster custom. In each case the tenants would be obliged to prove the particular custom under which they held their farms. If they could prove their particular custom, then there was no advantage in giving them a presumption in regard to the minimum custom.

**Mr. MURNAGHAN** desired to know why the tenant farmers of Ulster should be placed in a worse position than the tenant farmers throughout the rest of Ireland in regard to this matter. Was this the penalty that the Ulster farmer had to pay for having two representatives on the Treasury Bench? He claimed that the tenant farmers of Ulster ought to be placed in a better, and not a worse position than the farmers of the rest of Ireland. [*Laughter.*] Hitherto the farmers of the North had been regarded as the petted children of fortune, and he was curious therefore to know the cause of their having now to take a back seat to the other farmers of Ireland. [*Laughter.*]

Amendment negatived.

Clause 43,—

APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF PARTS OF ACT.

(1.) Part One of this Act shall, save as is by this Act expressly provided, apply to every proceeding pending at the commencement of this Act.

(2.) An application to fix a fair rent for a holding shall not be refused on the ground of any previous decision with reference to the holding or any part thereof, whether between the same parties or otherwise, if such application can be sustained under this Act, or any of the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act.

(3.) Parts One and Two of this Act shall be construed as one with the Land Law Acts, and together with those Acts may be cited as the Land Law Acts, and shall apply to all holdings to which the Land Law Acts or any of them, as amended by this Act, apply, and Section twenty-two of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, shall apply as if the said Acts and Parts of this Act were part of the foregoing provisions of the said Act of 1881, within the meaning of the said section.

(4.) Parts Two, Three, and Five of this Act shall be construed as one with the Land Purchase Acts as herein defined, and, together with those Acts may be cited as the Land Purchase Acts.

(5.) Part Four of this Act shall be construed as one with the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts, as defined in the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Act, 1894, and together with those Acts may be cited collectively as the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts.

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** moved at the end of Sub-section (2) to insert,—

"and where such application can be so sustained, the holding shall be deemed to be and to have remained a present tenancy as from the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881."

He stated that the Amendment was only a drafting Amendment, although it was important, and he hoped the Government would be able to accept it.

**Mr. MAURICE HEALY** said that if the Government did not accept the Amendment, they might as well drop Clause 3.

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY** said that as far as they were understood, this was a drafting Amendment, and in that sense they accepted it, with power to reconsider it.

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be Read the Third time Tomorrow (Wednesday).

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## ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn,"—(*The First Lord of the Treasury,*) — put, and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly at Twenty-five minutes after Five o'clock in the morning.

*An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Wednesday, 29th July 1896.*

House met at half-past Five o'clock.

### LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

Brought from the Commons.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE) moved, "That the Bill be read a First time."

Motion agreed to; Bill read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Friday next.—[No. 226.]

House adjourned at Twenty-five minutes before Six o'clock, till To-morrow, a Quarter past Ten o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Wednesday, 29th July 1896.*

### AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896 (ORDERS).

Paper [presented 28th July] to be printed.—[No. 319.]

### LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday 12th August.

### DISTRICT COUNCILS (WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES) BILL.

Order for Second Reading, this day, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

### LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading, this day, read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn.

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

### LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for Third Reading read.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) moved "That the Bill be now read the Third time."

MR. SMITH-BARRY (Hunts, Huntingdon) said he rose to move the rejection of the Bill. He did so with great reluctance. He and his friends had hoped that they might have had a Bill which would pass through the House with the consent of all parties. They had felt that it was advisable that some Bill should be passed—a Bill moderate in its character, which would place on a fair and right footing certain doubtful points in the working of previous Land Acts, but which would not trench still further upon the properties of the landlords which had been so much reduced in value by the land legislation of the past quarter of a century. The advantages that were fair to the tenants under the Land Acts of 1881 and 1887 were undoubtedly great, and it was perfectly natural that tenants who were excluded from the operations of those Acts should desire to share in their benefits. But, so far as he could judge, there had been no general desire for anything like a far-reaching Land Bill, and that the idea of introducing any Land Bill, even of the most modest character, at the end of the first judicial term had not been contemplated by any large body of tenants. The agitation was originally started in Tyrone and Antrim by a small body of men. It was then taken up by his hon. Friend the Member for South Tyrone (Mr. T. W. Russell), who proceeded to fan the flame, and to persuade people in Ireland and people in that House that there was a serious agitation in progress, and that something great must be done. The hon. Gentleman induced the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose—the late Chief Secretary—to appoint the Land Acts Committee of 1894. If real grievances existed, the landlord party was at that time perfectly ready to help to redress them. He was always of opinion that a small, simple Bill would have done good; but this Measure went much further than was necessary. Then he and his hon. Friends thought that, when the Government had heard what they had to say, Amendments from them might have been accepted; but their Amendments had been universally rejected, while those of hon. Gentlemen opposite had been largely accepted. Although the operation of previous land legislation had been cruel towards the landlords, and their property had been cut down far more than justice required, yet the landlords had loyally accepted the position. They did not anticipate that this Bill would be the reward. Of course, while he thought hon. Gentlemen opposite took an extreme view, it was possible that he and his hon. Friends also took an extreme view; and when once proposals had been made in a Bill, and advantages had been dangled before the eyes of any class, it was very difficult to withdraw them. But, nevertheless, the offers which had been made to the landlords had been withdrawn. He did not believe that the representatives of the tenants ever expected a Unionist Government to introduce so far-reaching a Measure. There was one fact which showed that such a Bill was unnecessary for the protection of the tenants, and that was that the prices of the tenant-right all over the country kept at a high and ever-advancing figure. While the farmers of Ireland were prepared to pay such sums for the tenant-right, there could not be any sound reason for giving them further privileges and for further reducing rents. The English public must not suppose that farming in Ireland was the miserable business that it was in the eastern counties of England. Unless the Irish farmers were fools in paying high prices for the tenant-right, it must be a very profitable business. In 1883, Mr. Gladstone, speaking on Mr. Parnell's Bill, said that, looking to the sacrifices which had been exacted from certain classes in Ireland, it would be wrong to demand from them further sacrifices which justice did not require. Yet this Bill altered the law throughout to the detriment of the landlord and the advantage of the tenant. He feared that the Measure would tend to increase litigation, because it would upset all the old decisions of the courts. All the old cases would have to be fought out again in the light of this new legislation. One of the great objects of the Government was to promote the policy of purchase; and this Bill would make purchase much more difficult. By Clause 22, for instance, if the court thought the title was not fully established, the property was taken from the landlord, and the capital was locked up for several years while the title was being proved. During that time the landlord received 2¾ per cent. on the money, while he would have to pay 5 or 6 per cent. to his mortgagees; and at the end it might be held that his title was bad. With such a provision no sane man would sell his property unless he had an absolutely clear title and unchanged estates; and such conditions were very scarce in Ireland. The Improvement Clauses went too far; the Turbary Clause was unjust and indefensible; and Clause 31, which embodied the principle of compulsory purchase, was most objectionable to the landlords. They could not accept this Bill, though they would have accepted a Measure for the advantage of the community generally. They must make one final protest against the Bill, and he therefore moved to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months."

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) seconded the Motion. On the Second Reading he had stated clearly the attitude which he intended to adopt towards this Measure. He thought he might appeal to Her Majesty's Government to justify him when he said that in moving these Amendments the Irish Landlord Party were not actuated by hostility to the Bill itself in its main principles, and that those Amendments were not of an obstructive or captious character. The moderation of the proposals that were made during the course of the discussions was clearly shown from the fact that the Government themselves embodied in two clauses the views that he and his Friends took upon the main objections. Those two clauses, the 13th and 4th, clearly showed what the mind of the Government was, but they were withdrawn for reasons which he need not dilate upon. Pressure of some kind from some quarter caused the Government to withdraw them lest they should imperil the passage of the Bill through the House. No one, on the Treasury Bench at all events, had got up and said that he disapproved of those Amendments, and that they were withdrawn because they would have spoilt the Bill. What principles ought to have guided the Government in bringing in this Bill? In the first instance they ought to have brought in a Bill which did not break up or injure or threaten the settlement of 1881; but in the present Bill that main guiding principle was entirely absent. The Leader of the House last night, or rather that morning, told them that the clause they were then discussing was a corollary of the Act of 1881. At that moment they were discussing a proposal to filch away from the Irish landlords the right to regulate the bog in Ireland, which, up to the present, belonged to them. He could not conceive a Unionist Government looking upon it as necessary to bring in a Bill which his right hon. Friend had described as a corollary of the Act of 1881, meaning the further plunder of Irish landlords. When they looked into the Bill they soon saw that the settlement of 1881 had been wantonly disturbed. The part dealing with exclusions was an absolute uprooting of the settlement of 1881. ["No!"] The first wanton alteration they came to was the raising of the £50 rating to £100, for which no reason worthy of the name was given to the House. The £50 limit was a settlement arrived at under the guidance of Mr. Gladstone, with the consent of Mr. Parnell himself.

MR. FLYNN said Mr. Parnell did not vote for the Land Act of 1881.

*COLONEL SAUNDERSON: No; but he stated that a man holding a farm worth £50 a year did not require protection.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): When did he say that?

*COLONEL SAUNDERSON: I have not the reference here, and I was not in the House at the time, but I read the statement.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I was present through all those Debates, and I never heard Mr. Parnell make any such statement.

*COLONEL SAUNDERSON: I hope the hon. Member will for once sit still and be quiet. Then in the same clause they came down to the third sub-section, when the absurdity about incorporeal hereditaments was burst as a surprise on the House of Commons. Let the House consider what this sub-section meant. Suppose a man hired, let to a tenant for £100, a certain extent of land which included a right of shooting, the Bill provided that if the tenant claimed to have a fair rent fixed on that land a Sub-Commissioner should come down and segregate this incorporeal hereditament from the land itself. It meant that this land was let for £100 including shooting. The gentleman who took this farm applied for a fair rent, and the Commissioners would hand over the farm which he hired, and hand back to the landlord this "incorporeal hereditament;" and it was to be conferred in the usual way by the Sheriff. How would the Sheriff become possessed of the "incorporeal hereditament?" Would he take the snipe and the grouse and hand them back to the landlord? [*Laughter.*] The whole thing was absurd, and to deliberately introduce such a monstrosity as this clause in the Bill indicated that the Measure was drawn up, he would not say hurriedly, but recklessly, interfering wantonly with the security of property in a way unheard of in our Parliamentary history. Then they came to the clause which dealt with turbary and other easements. How were the landlords met on that occasion? They had argued the point at great length, but this provision in Clause 6 was not one which really affected to any very great extent the tenure of land in Ireland by the tenants. It was a clause which might have been dropped. It was a concession which the Government might have made to the Irish landlords without injuring the principle of their Bill or interfering with the claims which the Irish tenants might make for a Bill dealing with the tenure of land. The Government also on this clause, and nearly on every proposal the landlords had made, did not argue the points or give reasons why the rights which owners of property enjoyed—the right to do as they pleased with their own—should be taken from them. But, making use of a composite and strangely assorted majority, they absolutely refused to listen to their arguments or to make this concession to those who represented the owners of property in Ireland. Other points were debated at considerable length. The recovery of rent in the case of sub-division had also introduced a strange principle in the Bill. Then they came to the Procedure Clauses. He said that the Government, in bringing in a Land Bill this year, ought to have been influenced mainly by the view of taking advantage of 15 years' experience of the Act of 1881 to amend it where necessary, and to do away with the defects which that lapse of time had discovered. ["Hear, hear!"] But one of the chief objections to the Act of 1881 was the expense involved to both landlord and tenant in procedure under that Act. The Government ought to have been largely influenced in the method they adopted of constructing this Bill by an attempt to abolish this defect, and in making procedure under the Land Act a cheap and easy process. He thought that the Chief Secretary, in his speech introduccing the Measure, said that this was one of the objects he had in introducing it, and it was one with which he sympathised. In Clause 13, which the right hon. Gentleman put on the Paper and afterwards withdrew, he acknowledged that, in his opinion, that amendment of procedure improved the Bill, and the right hon. Gentleman believed it to be right, just, and expedient. Now all the expense and difficulty to both landlord and tenant still remained unchanged, and the great blot of the Act of 1881—namely, the millions of pounds lost in fixing fair rents—remained unredressed, though the Government had a great opportunity to wipe it away. In proposing, as the landlords had done, Amendments in the direction he had indicated, he thought he was justified in saying that they were reasonable Amendments, and that they were not proposed to impede the Measure. Why was it that they had failed to carry out by their Amendments what the right hon. Gentleman believed to have been an improvement on his Bill? It was that they had been practically closured by the position in which time had placed the House. If his right hon. Friend had moved that this Bill should be placed before the House in compartments, or to report it on a certain date, it could not have been more effectually closured than it had been by the hand of time. ["Oh, oh!"] No one could deny that this was the 29th of July. [*Laughter.*] When hon. Members sat through a day and a half they were not certain about the days, and the hon. Member seemed to be uncertain whether it was yesterday or to-morrow. [*Laughter.*] But the House had to rise somewhere about the middle of August, and therefore the difficulty was that the Government were placed in this dilemma:—

> "If we accept Amendments which we acknowledge to be just and to be an improvement on the Bill, hon. Members opposite have nothing to do but to pull out the spigot and turn on that flood of eloquence always capable of charming the House and destroying the Measures proposed by successive Governments."

[*Laughter.*] The object of the Government was to carry a Bill. They had tried to carry other Bills this Session, and on one Bill a great deal of eloquence had been expended, and hon. Members had marched many miles in the Division Lobbies over it. But it had been withdrawn, and when they saw public business conducted in such a way that the Government brought forward a Measure of the magnitude of the Irish Land Bill for discussion at the extreme end of the Session, he had to say that, as far as the Irish landlords were concerned, that arrangement had not been a success. But the Government desired to carry a Bill which after all only dealt with the property of Irish landlords, and he did not think that any section of the House cared much about that unfortunate class. [*Laughter.*] When he saw how Liberal Unionists and Radicals dealt with Irish landlords he was inclined to paraphrase Hood's lines:—

> "Rattle his bones over the stones,
> It is only a landlord whom nobody owns."

[*Laughter.*] He objected very much to be rattled over the stones—[*laughter*]—and he said that the difficulty—the insuperable difficulty—in which they were placed in inducing the Government to accept moderate improvements, which, according to their own showing, would have improved the Bill, was very great. Those improvements had been refused, not because they were unjust or would injure the Measure, but simply from the fact that had they been accepted the Bill would never have passed through the House. It must strike any one who had taken part in these Debates that the principal characteristic which had marked the passage of the Measure through Committee had been that almost every Amendment of the most moderate and reasonable kind proposed by the Landlord Party had been rejected, while a great majority of the Amendments proposed by hon. Members opposite had been accepted. [" Oh, oh ! "] Well, a great many—[Mr. T. M. HEALY : " All drafting Amendments ! "]—at least ten to one. One of the Amendments proposed the previous evening by the hon. and learned Member for Louth was accepted by the Government, but the Leader of the House said that he was uncertain as to its effect, and he would deal with it in another place.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) explained that what he had said was that the Government were disposed to take the same view as the hon. Member for Louth, but that if that view proved to be wrong they would take steps to correct the error.

*COLONEL SAUNDERSON said that the attitude of hon. Members opposite below the Gangway towards this Bill and the Government was remarkable. The attitude of the hon. and learned Member for Louth struck him particularly. He was never afraid of the hon. and learned Member when he frowned. [*Laughter.*] It was not the storm and the thunder of waves breaking on the rocks that were so perilous to the sailor ; they were warnings of dangers that might be avoided. It was the song of the siren that lured the unguarded mariner to destruction. [*Laughter.*] He was afraid, when he heard the mellifluous accents of the hon. and learned Member in these Debates, that he might melt by his smiles the backbone of the Chief Secretary—[*laughter*]—a part of the political anatomy of the right hon. Gentleman which was absolutely essential in dealing with Ireland and the Irish. He warned his right hon. Friend to be suspicious of the present attitude of hon. Members opposite. The right hon. Gentleman was now told that he was able and industrious and conciliatory because he had accepted more Amendments from the Opposition side of the House than from his own side; but he would remind his right hon. Friend that it was not so very long ago that the Chief Secretary was described as an " effete hawthorn bud " and a " sleuth-tiger "—[*laughter*]—because he had a bias in favour of the maintenance of law and of rights enjoyed in every civilised country in the world. He trusted seriously that his right hon. Friend would not be beguiled from the straight course which a Unionist Government ought to follow on the land and other questions by the changed attitude of hon. Members opposite. The Government had had a great opportunity. Irish Unionists had a right to expect that this Government at any rate would sympathise with them. It was therefore a matter of surprise to them to find that the tendency of the Government was to sympathise with hon. Members opposite rather than with them. He could say for the Party with whom he was connected that they had not attempted to get the Government to favour them in the settlement of the land question. They had left the question to the Government, believing that they were leaving it in safe hands, and that the Land Bill, when produced, would not be a Measure absolutely hostile to the class to which he belonged. The Government had disappointed them. [" Hear, hear !"] What the fate of the Bill would be in another place he could not say. It might be that the principles which appeared to have dominated the minds of the Members of the Government would be found to have infected the House of Lords, and that the Bill would return from that House almost unchanged. But he gave the House of Lords more credit for independence of action than many hon. Gentlemen did, and he believed that when the Bill came to be considered in the calmer and perhaps more funereal atmosphere of another place, common sense, and the principle of justice to all classes in Ireland would prevail. He maintained that the Amendments moved in Committee on behalf of the landlords, whilst they were in accordance with the elementary principles of justice, would not destroy or weaken the purpose of the Bill. When this Session should be over it would be a sorrowful thing if the Government could only point, when claiming to have redeemed their character as practical legislators, to a Measure which had unsettled the settlement of 1881 and given a parting kick to that class in Ireland who, whatever their faults might have been, had deserved the epithet of hon. Members opposite, who had described them as the English garrison for this reason, that they had been faithful and true to British rule, and would always remain true to it. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) reminded the House that in the Debates on the Bill introduced by the right hon. Member for Montrose it was practically admitted by the representatives of all parties that legislation on much the same lines as now proposed was a necessity. When hon. Members opposite complained of the action of the Government in introducing legislation of this kind, the House would surely not forget that the Government were pledged up to the hilt, before, during, and after the General Election, to deal in this way with the Land Question at the first available opportunity. He regretted that now, at the end of the discussions on this Bill, it was impossible for him to alter the opinion which he had expressed from the very first as to the general character of the Measure. He still held that the Bill in many essential particulars fell short of what the necessities of the situation demanded. He and his Friends had taken very little part in the Debates that had taken place. One reason for that was that the Amendments of which they had given notice were moved by other Members representing Irish constituencies. Those Amendments were few in number, but of vital importance. He regretted extremely that the Amendment for the shortening of the judicial term and the Amendments on the question of improvements had been rejected by the Government. At the same time he recognised that the Bill contained provisions which were worthy of acceptance on behalf of the tenantry of Ireland. He was happy that the Bill passed through the Committee stage without suffering any great injury to its character. He did not think that the Amendments proposed by the Member for Dublin University had diminished whatever of goodness the Bill originally contained for the tenants. In fact, he was not sure that the Bill might not have been improved slightly, and he did not think that they would be doing their duty if they did not congratulate the Government on having stood firmly by the main provisions of the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] He regretted that they did not concede certain points which had been urged upon the Government. However, he thought it only right that the words uttered by the Member for Louth with regard to the Chief Secretary should be echoed by every Member of every section of the Irish Party. [*Cheers.*] He could not add to what the Member for Louth had said, but he did wish to associate himself with him in expressing his keen appreciation of the courtesy, ability, and the reasonable, conciliatory tone which had been observed all through by the Chief Secretary and by the Attorney General, and, indeed, when he intervened, by the Leader of the House himself. ["Hear, hear!"] He rose, however, to call attention to the closing observations of the hon. Member opposite, who had reminded the Government of how they dropped the Education Bill, and who suggested that they had to pass this Bill for fear their reputation should still further suffer. How would they suffer if they allowed this Bill to be so mutilated in the House of Lords that it would not meet even with the acceptance of the Irish people? He had all through, except on certain important points, endeavoured to give the Government encouragement and support, but he had done that on the clear understanding that they should stand by the main provisions of the Bill; if, however, the Government were to allow this Bill to be mutilated in another place, for his part he should regard the Government as guilty of gross bad faith to them and the tenantry of Ireland. [*Irish cheers.*] He did not believe that they would be guilty of such conduct; but, having heard the observations of the hon. Member, he thought it his duty to intervene and say that the Government were bound in honour, and, he believed, in their own interest, to stand by the main provisions of this Bill in another place, so that it might pass into law in at least not a worse condition than when it left that House. [*Cheers.*]

MR. J. A. RENTOUL (Down, E.) said that he considered the proposal for the rejection of the Bill on its Third Reading was intended to have an influence outside the House, and he therefore desired to point out that there was at present in Ireland a dual ownership in land which it was admitted on all hands could not continue. There was, therefore, need that some step should be taken. There were two parties having rights with regard to the land, the landlords and the tenants, and as they could not themselves agree on their respective rights, an arbitrator had to be called in. In bringing in this Bill the Government were simply acting as arbitrator, and he maintained that in that capacity they had done their work exceedingly well. If they had any bias it would naturally be to the landlord side, as five-sixths of the Government were landlords, and at least five were Irish landlords, or their direct representatives. There were Lord Lansdowne, the Duke of Devonshire, the representative of the Downshire family, the Under Secretary for War, and the Under Secretary of the Admiralty, both the latter being heirs to Irish estates, and most militant members of the landlord party in the past. If the Government were robbing Irish landlords, they were, therefore, doing so with the approval of those five Irish landlords.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY : I must interpose. The Cabinet and the Cabinet alone are responsible for the introduction of this Bill, and it is not fair in this connection to introduce the names of other Members of the Ministry who cannot be here to defend themselves.

MR. RENTOUL said that, after the correction from the Leader of the House, he would not be justified in proceeding further along that line, but it was difficult for him to conceive that under those circumstances any injustice was being done to the landlord class. He pointed out that none of the members of the landlord party challenged a Division on the Second Reading of the Morley Bill, and he was sure, if the Members for Down or Antrim had done so they would have stood a very small chance of being re-elected. [*Irish cheers.*] He was elected with the full knowledge of his constituents that such a Bill was intended to be brought in if a Unionist Government were returned and that it would receive his support, and he asked what position they would have been in if they had failed to carry out their pledges. With reference to what had been said by the hon. Member for South Hunts (Mr. Smith-Barry) that the hon. Member for South Tyrone had fanned a flame amongst the Ulster tenant-farmers, the flame was not one that required much fanning, and it certainly lighted very quickly indeed. Those hon. Members from Ulster who were on the side of the Government in this matter were placed in a difficult position in not being able to agree with the colleagues with whom they had acted in the past, but they felt that they had to act as fairly as they could between the two classes. He was sorry to read such a letter as that written by Lord Ardilaun to *The Times*, which was a distinct confession that Unionist to him meant nothing more than landlord, and that he was a Unionist simply because he thought the Unionist Party was the landlord party, and because he thought the other side was the anti-landlord party. He was gratified to find that was not the sentiment which actuated the hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh, but that his Unionism was as strong whether a Bill was passed of which he thoroughly disapproved or whether no Bill was passed at all. The Bill would shortly go to another place; both Houses were largely Unionist, but this House contained tenant-farmers and direct representatives of the tenant-farmers, while the other House did not contain a single tenant-farmer or a representative of them. It was impossible to believe that the Unionist House of Lords could not trust the Unionist House of Commons. The House of Commons had gone into the Bill at great length, being composed of Gentlemen representing both parties, and representing both parties fully and fairly. The other House of Parliament did not and could not represent both parties in this matter, and he should be exceedingly sorry if there was any serious interference with the provisions of the Bill in the House of Lords. It had been said that the other House had rejected another and a most important Irish Measure during the last Parliament. Of course he should not be in order in referring to the provisions of that Bill in any shape or form, but the House of Lords had the same interest in the question of Home Rule that the House of Commons had, and had an equal right to form their own judgment with regard to it that the House of Commons possessed. But this Bill was of a totally different character. It was a money Bill, and nothing but a money Bill, which dealt with the financial relations between the landlords and tenants of Ireland, and therefore the House of Lords, who would not have the case of the Irish tenants placed before them, would trust the Government in regard to this Bill as they trusted them in regard to other matters. In his view this was a fair and a just Bill, and in framing it the Government had tried to do their best to settle the land question of Ireland. The Unionists of Ulster to a man were with them, and although they might not think that the Measure went quite far enough upon all points, they generally appreciated what the Government had done in the matter, and regarded the Bill as an honest and prudent attempt to settle a most difficult question. ["Hear, hear!"]

*MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that, in the first place, he desired to compliment the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chief Secretary for Ireland upon the courtesy they had shown in the course of the discussion of this Measure. Beyond that, however, he was not prepared to go in expressing satisfaction at the action of the Government in connection with this Bill. The Government, in his opinion, had not treated the Irish Members fairly in the method which they had adopted to get the Bill through that House. On all main and vital points in which the Irish people were so deeply interested the Government had refused to accept the Amendments that had been brought forward by the Nationalist Members of that House, whereas the Amendments brought forward on behalf of the Irish landlords which the Government had accepted had been of a drastic character. Hon. Members must feel that during the discussion upon this Bill Irish representatives had not received fair play, even from the point of view of the Government. For some obscure reason which had not been avowed, this Bill, which affected so deeply the interests of the Irish tenants, had been deliberately and of malice aforethought postponed to the last days of an expiring Session. ["Hear, hear!"] The Government had compelled the Irish Members, who desired to do their duty by their constituents, to sit up all night into the small hours of the morning in order to take a part in the discussion of the Bill, or else to incur the odium of having forced the Government to drop the Measure. ["Hear, hear!"] In the name of the Irish people he protested against this treatment by the Government of the Irish representatives. ["Hear, hear!"] The course which had been taken with regard to this Measure showed an utter incapacity on the part of the Government and of that House to conduct Irish affairs in a proper and statesmanlike manner. Any hon. Members who had been compelled to sit through the weary hours of last night until nearly 6 o'clock that morning in endeavouring to do their duty to their constituents would bear him out when he asserted that the proceedings with regard to this Measure were an absolute farce. [*Cheers.*] The Amendments to the Bill ought to have been discussed at an hour when hon. Members could have taken part in their discussion without subjecting their health to an intolerable strain. [*Cheers.*] Amendment after Amendment, involving the most important issues, had been brought forward by Irish Members merely in a *pro forma* manner, because they were told it was impossible to discuss them adequately in the early hours of the morning, and they, consequently, had to be withdrawn. He submitted that that was not the way in which a Measure of this importance should be discussed. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury, in the course of a speech which he had delivered the other day, had glorified our Parliamentary institutions; but, by the proceedings which the right hon. Gentleman had thought fit to adopt in dealing with this Bill, he had done more to lower that House in the estimation of the public than had resulted from all the so-called obstruction of which they had heard so much. For these reasons he could take no part in the congratulations which had been offered to the Government for the manner in which they had conducted the discussions upon this Bill. [*Cheers.*] The hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh and the hon. Member for South Hunts had described this Measure as one of a most formidable character, and had declared that a much smaller and more simple one would have been more acceptable. Hon. Members opposite, however, had opposed the Bill of last year, which had been introduced by the right hon. Member for Montrose and which would have satisfied the people of Ireland. Why did not the Government simply reintroduce that Bill this Session? The Government had struck out the most important provisions of that Bill and had introduced into the present Measure provisions that were objectionable to the Irish people, although the Bill as it now stood did contain some valuable provisions. The Nationalist Members had done their best under circumstances of almost overwhelming difficulty to amend this Bill, but as a settlement of the Irish land question it was an absolute failure. [*Cheers.*] No one who was qualified by experience to speak for the Irish tenants could tell the Government that this Bill would settle the question, even for a time. ["Hear, hear!"] He had been asked, and very foolishly, "If you don't approve of the Bill, why don't you vote against it?" How could he vote against it? The Bill contained a whole string of clauses which were substantial improvements of the law. ["Hear, hear!"] It contained the purchase clauses, which, from his point of view, were a great concession; it contained the evicted tenants clause and the congested districts clause, to which he attached great importance. How could he vote against a Bill which contained such valuable clauses? As regarded the treatment the Bill would receive in the House of Lords he did not offer an opinion, but he should like to know whether there was any foundation for the rumour that the Government were going to intrust the Bill in the other House to the Marquess of Lansdowne, who was a landlord, signalised for many years as one of the leaders of the irreconcileable and extreme party of landlords. The Leader of the House declared the other day that the Cabinet alone were responsible for this Bill. Surely, after the Bill had been introduced into the House of Commons by the Government, every Member of the Treasury Bench was equally responsible. [*Opposition cheers.*] He went further, and declared that every Member of the Government who sat in the House of Lords was equally responsible. [*Loud cheers.*] The Irish Members were entitled to assume that the Marquess of Lansdowne and the Duke of Devonshire and every Member of the Government in the House of Lords were bound to support this Bill, and to take up the same attitude that the Government did in the House of Commons. [*Cheers.*] He was astounded at the statement that every Member of the Government was not responsible. A Member of the Government ought not to retain his position unless prepared to stand by Government Measures.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said that they had just heard a declaration that this would not settle the Irish question. ["Hear, hear!"] This was the ninth Irish Land Bill introduced by Ministers within 26 years. The first was in 1870, and they were told it would settle Ireland. It did not. Parliament was now engaged on the ninth Bill, and they had a distinct statement from the Leader of the Irish Nationalist Party that this one did not settle Ireland. He thought that statement justified the action taken by many Members of the House. He viewed this Bill from a different point to the hon. Member for South Armagh, and his conduct was ruled by his pledges to his constituents. Ireland ought to be fairly treated, but Parliament ought not to give to Ireland what she had refused to give to Great Britain. [*Cheers.*] He said that Ireland had occupied too much of Parliamentary time, to the neglect of English business, and he had pledged himself to support the Party that would attend to the business of Great Britain and pull up the arrears. How came it that they were called upon to make this great sacrifice of time and temper for another Irish Measure? The Act of 1885 only provided for the fixing of fair rents for 15 years. The present Bill was, therefore, introduced. He had not opposed the Second Reading, because it was perfectly understood that certain Amendments would be made in Committee to meet his objections. But there had been a curious difference in the attitude of the Government towards Amendments from their own side and Amendments from Irish Members opposite. ["No, no!"] The English

Unionist Members could not be charged with obstruction. Last night there were 43 Amendments moved from the opposite side of the House, and only 11 from the Ministerial side. Considering the vastness of the interests at stake, the latter number was not unreasonable. When the Unionist Government were returned to power Irish securities rose because it was said that, at all events, for so many years there would not be anything to fear from alterations to or attacks upon the security of property. What was the result now? Since the Bill had been introduced values had gone down. Dealing with the incumbered estates clause, he observed that the Incumbered Estates Court was created by Parliament for the purpose of taking over mortgaged estates, of getting rid of men who had no money to improve or do justice to their property, and to attract English and Scotch capital to Ireland. On the basis of the good faith of Parliament millions were attracted into Ireland and invested in land. Scotch and English insurance offices were largely concerned, and, that being so, they could not say where the interest in Irish land of the English and Scotch middle classes began and ended. He must say he looked with amazement and horror upon the revolutionary proposal in this clause of the Bill to alter the fundamental character and procedure of that Court. The interest of the Land Commission by the clause would be to keep down the price given for land by the tenant, their business being to see that the State suffered no loss. They would accordingly ascertain what price the tenants were willing to pay, and in their Report that would be the price that would be indicated and recommended as the selling price of the property. That was not selling in a free and open market, and the adoption of such a system must inevitably cause depreciation of the market value of land in Ireland. The attitude he had adopted with regard to the Bill was this. Half the trouble with regard to Ireland was brought about by the imagination of the House in thinking that the only two classes in that country were the landlords and tenants. It was not merely a question of landlords and tenants. There were the banks, the Church property, and the mortgage and insurance companies. Again, there were over 62,000 landlords owning 500 acres of land or less. Many of these were men who had made money in trade in neighbouring towns and then became landowners. Looking at the Bill as it would affect small owners, he contended that it would prove destructive to their interests. It would crush the small landlords by the litigation in which it would involve them, and in the same way would injuriously affect the middle classes and those who, on the faith of Parliament, had put English and Scotch capital into Irish land. To paraphrase an old saying, it might be said of such people—

> "And, now, whereas the Radical party did lay upon you a heavy yoke, the Unionist party will add to your yoke. The Radical party chastised you with whips, the Unionist party will chastise you with scorpions."

[*Laughter and* "Hear, hear!"]

*MR. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.) said he found himself in sympathy with the Motion that the Bill be read a Third time that day three months, but for totally opposite reasons to those advanced by the hon. and gallant Member who last addressed the House. The hon. and gallant Member supported the Motion on the ground that the Bill would injure to some material extent the interests of the landlords in Ireland. He utterly failed to see the justification for that apprehension. He could no more imagine a Government of landlords, presided over by Lord Salisbury, bringing in a Bill that would do injury to the landlord interests, than he could picture to himself a Ministry of foxes promoting legislation for the protection of the henroosts of the country. He could not see how or where the Bill gave any substantial protection to or conferred any benefit upon the tenant-farmers of Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Hunts said that the land legislation of the last 15 years had considerably damaged the property of Irish landlords. The very opposite was the fact. In the words of the late Lord Derby, the Land Act of 1881 was a lifeboat for the Irish landlords, because while, during the last 15 years, English landlords had voluntarily abated rents to the extent of 30, 40 and 50 per cent., Irish landlords had only been compelled by law to give reductions to the extent of 20 or 25 per cent. But his main objection to the Bill was that it denied justice and protection to the tenant-farmers of Ireland on the four cardinal issues of the Irish land question. The Bill would still allow Irish landlords to levy rents upon the improvments put into the soil by the tenant-farmers; it refused to abridge the judicial term of 15 years, notwithstanding the fact that all agricultural Ireland, with the exception of the landlords, was united in making the demand; it refused to do justice to the tenants in Ulster in the matter of town parks; and by the operation of the purchase clauses it would still compel the tenant-farmers to buy their own property back from the landlords. The Irish landlords' property was mortgaged to an enormous extent to English banks and English money-lenders. It was estimated that the debt upon Irish land amounted to no less a sum than £160,000,000; and what the landlords wanted to do by means of the Purchase Acts was to shift that mortgage off their shoulders on to the shoulders of the tenant-farmers. He protested, in the name of the working classes of Ireland and of the taxpayers of Ireland, against a provision which had for its object, not the ending of dual ownership, but the extension of the landlord principle throughout Ireland. He was sorry he almost stood alone on the Irish Benches in the attitude he took against the Bill. He did not question the sincerity of the hon. Member for Waterford in the support he gave to the Measure, but the hon. Gentleman would permit him to say there was a game of cross policies carried on in the House with reference to the Bill. Hon. Members on his side were damning the Bill by faint praise, while the landlords opposite were praising the Bill by faint damning, and he could not but assert that when the Bill became law it would be a landlords' Bill in every particular and would not in any way bring substantial relief to most of the tenant-farmers of Ireland. He had hoped at one time he would be able to see a good deal of the hon. Member for South Tyrone in the Bill, but he would require a very powerful microscope with which to discover where the hon. Gentleman came in. The hon. Member had been thrown out of the Bill body and bones, and the hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh was found in his place, surrounded by all the sacred rights of his incorporeal hereditaments. The favourite argument of the hon. and gallant Member and others of his class against honest or radical legislation on the Irish land question was that there was no need for such legislation, that Ireland was prosperous beyond all question. The hon. and gallant Gentleman supported his contention about this imaginary prosperous Ireland by quoting statistics with reference to deposits in Irish savings banks. An authority, which was generally on the side of the hon. and gallant Member and his class, said:—

> "The savings banks never were more prosperous than in this year. What increases the marvel is that their prosperity in different districts appears to be exactly in proportion to the extent of the demands on public benevolence. The more people have wanted the more they have had. Under increasing distress there has happily existed a mine of increasing wealth, and while the Treasury has been lavishing its bounties with the right hand, with the left it has received a back current of comfortable deposits. If the Irish peasants have not such large heaps of potatoes as usual, it is clear that they have larger deposits in the bank."

That was the authority of *The Times* of London, not of yesterday, but of November 6, 1846, a time when famine was decimating the population of Ireland. They were familiar with all this dishonest attempt on the part of the Irish landlord class to hoodwink public opinion in this country into a belief that Ireland was in the enjoyment of material prosperity. At the present time there were in Ireland over a million of people compelled to live in houses that were valued at £1 or under per year, there was more pauperism inside and outside the workhouses of Ireland at the present time than when the country had double the population. The landlords had a debt on their property amounting to £160,000,000, and if they calculated what the tenants owed in rent to the landlords and what they owed to the banks and shopkeepers, they would find that Irish agriculture was indebted to-day to the extent of about £200,000,000, or of something like £300 upon every one of the 600,000 holdings throughout Ireland. Such was the result of the working of the landlord system which was so eloquently defended by the hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh. This Bill would become law. So had 50 other Land Bills become law during the last 50 or 70 years. After this House had spoken, when the Bill found its way to the Statute-book, the voice of Ireland would be heard. He predicted that the last word had not been said through this Bill upon the Irish land question. [" Hear, hear !"] He was convinced Ireland would repudiate the Bill and would go on persistently demanding an honest Measure, a Measure which would remove from Ireland once and for ever the curse of Irish landlordism which had brought the country to her present position of poverty and humiliation. [" Hear, hear !"]

Mr. H. O. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.) admitted that he had no great enthusiasm for the Bill, though he had voted for all its provisions except one. He had voted for the Bill because he believed the last and the present Government had given positive pledges which made it imperative the Bill should be passed. He voted for it, in the second place, because he believed the whole tendency of past land legislation had so affected the condition of affairs in Ireland that, were the Bill not to be passed, a peculiar situation would arise which would be intolerably unjust to the Ulster tenants. He should vote for the Third Reading because the passing of the Bill was inevitable in the circumstances under which the present and the late Government were pledged to it. The whole tendency of past land legislation had so affected the condition of affairs in Ireland, that were the Bill not to pass the tenants in Ulster would be placed in a peculiar, unjust, and intolerable situation. He repudiated any sympathy with the system upon which the Bill was based, but the Bill in itself he believed would not greatly aggravate the evils of which he complained; it was a part, but not an important part, of the system. The Chief Secretary was taking a step which the inexorable logic of events compelled him to take; but starting with a clean sheet, how could he justify such a Bill as this? There did not appear to be any sympathy for the Bill in the House. Much was heard on the details of the Bill, but the discussions were thinly attended, for it was one of the peculiar features of this land legislation that the discussions were carried on in a mystic language no one but an expert could understand. This was the 25th Bill since 1870 which seriously and materially concerned the tenure of land in Ireland, and the land code, which the unfortunate Irish tenant was supposed to know, covered 250 pages of the Statute-book, and these pages were supplemented to the tenth power by the conflicting decisions of Judges and Commissioners. The state of the land law in Ireland was such that no living man could be said to understand it, unless the hon. and learned Member for Louth (Mr. T. M. Healy) occupied the exceptional position, and there was not a man alone in Ireland who had a positive knowledge of his rights under the law in the land in which he lived. If a man thinks he knows the law to-day, the chances are a hundred to one that he is convinced to-morrow that he does not know. Continual decisions had complicated the written law, and the result was that, taking the commonest commodity in Ireland, which was land, the ordinary transactions of life could not be carried on with certainty. Taking his memory back to 1881, he from that year dated a retrospect. In 1881 the great Act was passed, the whole object of which was to go some way to solve the Irish land question by introducing the system of fixing fair rents, and now at this moment this House was engaged in the Third Reading of a Bill which started the whole thing over again, and matters stood as they stood in 1881, with the difference that they were a great deal worse. Commissioners were to be appointed by the score, but they would not carry matters forward one step towards solution. A horde of Sub-Commissioners would be let loose to deliver over again nine-tenths of the tenants of Ireland to the attorneys. Of the existing lay and assistant Commissioners, he did not believe there was one who had been appointed after having had any training in the judicial faculty, and now another generation of these temporary gentlemen would be let loose on the land, all, no doubt, excellent gentlemen, but dependent on the current of public opinion, and still looking, not to the justice and equity of the case, but to the life to which they would return, and from which they were tempted to emerge by the promise of £400 or £500 a year. That was an unfortunate condition in which to place any country. What was the real trouble from which Ireland suffered? It was the great want of confidence as between man and man. How were they going to restore that confidence? By making it absolutely impossible that any man who held property in Ireland should know what that property was for 24 hours time. Not even the most ingenious lawyer could draw any document under seal and signature which in Ireland would not be liable to be absolutely set aside within 12 months by this Imperial Parliament. They also wanted to bring about in Ireland that friendly feeling without which social life must be an impossibility in any country. And how did they set about it? They had these unhappy divisions, dating from years of conquest and misunderstanding, which had produced a state of things in Ireland which demanded a remedy. How were they going to do it? The Irish landlords and tenants were at issue still, and the only occasion on which the landlord would have any inducement to come into contact with his tenant was as a litigant in a Court of law. What was wanted in Ireland was that there should be respect for the law and a firm belief in the integrity of those who administered it. He did not know how it struck other hon. Members, but it appeared to him that the present method of administering the land law of Ireland was scarcely one calculated to induce respect for the law or its administrators. How was it possible to expect that men with salaries of between £500 and £600 per annum, who were made the absolute arbiters day by day and week by week of the fortunes of thousands of our fellow-subjects in Ireland, could inspire respect in the administration of the law when it was certain that their decisions, however unconsciously to themselves, must be affected by the changes in political and public opinion that occurred so frequently? There was, in his opinion, only one possible exit from the morass into which we had blundered in regard to the Irish land question. In dealing with that subject we had cast to the winds all our old notions respecting the principles of political economy, and we had done many things in Ireland which, if they had been done in England, would have shocked us. The day might be dawning, however, when, perhaps, a new departure might be permissible, and when we might go back to that happy time when the principles of political economy had some existence and some value in our eyes. Ever since the passing of the Act of 1881 he had consistently protested against its principles. We could not by doing a great wrong ever bring about a great right. There was only one way out of our difficulty, and that was by the avenue of purchase. We must get rid of this competition of two diametrically opposed interests in Irish land; we must put the land of Ireland into the hands of one man only, and not into those of two men. But how was that to be accomplished? The landlords could not afford to sell their land at the price that the tenants could afford to pay, and the tenants could not afford to pay the price that the landlords were justified in asking for it. The only clauses in the Bill about which he cared one straw were those which related to purchase. But those clauses made purchase impossible by so smoothing the path of the tenants into the Law Courts that they would be tempted to try their fortune in another legal enterprise. He regretted extremely that so little was done in the Bill to facilitate purchase; but there still remained the question whether they could not now, by some combined action of that House, further this process of purchase. They had had warnings enough. They did not want the Debate of that day to tell them that on the road they were now pursuing there was no end. ["Hear, hear!"] Goodness knows they had been told that over and over again, in Parliament after Parliament. In the words of the hon. Member for Mayo—

> "On this path there was no end, and by this light there was no salvation."

["Hear, hear!"] Surely it was time they came back out of this *cul de sac.* He spoke as a representative of a commercial constituency. In Ireland they had but one desire in connection with this land business. They wanted to see such a system introduced as would give the greatest facilities for the development of Irish industries. [" Hear, hear ! "] He thought that there was a method of arriving at a solution of this problem which was worth consideration. The same difficulty had arisen elsewhere in other countries. There was a precedent which he believed might be followed. They were contemplating a great operation, which was what he might call an heroic operation, something which was in the nature of a revolution, and the only justification for the Government undertaking a revolution was some overwhelming public necessity. It must be the safety of the public which was at stake which would justify the Government in setting aside all the elementary conditions of our life and bringing in something which he had described as a revolution. What was to be done if it was done at all must be done for the benefit of the State. [" Hear, hear ! "] His authority was a distinguished Irishman who had written a book ; but he understood that in some of the Continental States—in Bavaria, where it was decided that it was necessary to take the feudal rights from the owners and transfer them to those who paid them—it was felt on the one hand that it was unjust for the benefit of the State to deprive the owners of their property without compensation, and it was felt imperative in the interests of the State that those who were part owners with them should receive the entire ownership. What was done there was just and equitable. To the landlords it was said by the State, " We will buy your property at 20 years' purchase," and to the tenants it was said, " We will sell it to you for 18 years' purchase," and the difference between those figures should be the contribution of the State. He did not suggest that that would be a possible avenue of escape in the present case ; but it might be an exit from the difficulties attending a cast-iron system of purchase in Ulster. He dissociated himself from everything but the expediency which necessitated the Bill. He did feel that he was justified, as a representative and a member of the community, in raising his protest at this stage. This was the first time he had ever voted for an Irish Land Bill, but if the principles of purchase adopted were what he was told they were and were to be the principles of the future, it would be the last time he would ever vote for such a Measure. [" Hear, hear ! "]

*Mr. H. O. Arnold-Forster.*

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY : I think it is now time that I intervened on the part of the Government in this Debate, which has already been prolonged beyond our anticipations. [" Hear, hear ! "] The speeches of my hon. friends have made certain to my mind what before I suspected, that for a large number of Gentlemen on this side of the House the real objection to this legislation is not founded upon any provisions which the Bill contains, but that it is really an echo of the far-off attempts of this House to deal with the Irish land question, which far-off attempts began in 1870 and were continued in 1881. My hon. Friend the Member for South Belfast attacked in no part of his speech a single provision of this Measure. What he did attack, and attacked with great force, was the principle of the Act of 1881, the principle of the fixing of fair rents by judicial tribunals, and the inevitable incidents that that system was bound to produce and has produced. Well, I am not responsible for the land legislation of 1881. I did my best when the Act of that year was going through the House to modify its details and oppose its principles; and, unless my memory deceives me, some of the most influential members of the then Conservative Party, who were also representatives of the interests of the Irish landlords, gave us, English Members, only a very perfunctory and lukewarm support of the action we then took. Listening to the speeches of my hon. Friends you would suppose that the effect of the Bill would be to suddenly call into existence 60 or 70 new sub-Commissioners, who would be let loose in Ireland to deal at their sweet will with the property of the landlords. It is undoubtedly the fact that the termination of the first judicial term will require the appointment of a large number of sub-Commissioners. But that has no more to do with this Bill than it has to do with the Bavarian legislation to which my hon. Friend referred. There is nothing in this Bill which will shorten the judicial term, there is nothing in the Bill to bring into the Land Courts tenants who would otherwise stay away, and the trend of the arguments of my hon. Friend turned on broader questions, which have no relation whatever to the question now before the House, which is the Third Reading of this Bill. I turn now to the criticisms passed upon the action of the Government by my right hon. Friend the Member for South Hunts, and my hon. and gallant Friend the Member for North Armagh, who have taken so active a part in the discussion of this Measure. But let me first take this opportunity of thanking both of them, and also hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House, for the manner in which they have treated the Committee Stage and the Report Stage of this Bill. Hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House regard the Bill as a most inadequate instalment of the just rights of the Irish tenants. On the other hand, what is called the Landlord Party, think that we are interfering very unjustly with the rights of property; but though each side, from their own separate point of view, had what they considered a legitimate grievance against the proposals of the Government, they have carefully and generously abstained from doing anything which could interfere with the passage of this Bill, and for that I beg to return them, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, and also I will say on behalf of the interests of Ireland, my most sincere thanks. Listening to my hon. Friends on this side of the House, you would suppose that the proposers of the Bill were a set of revolutionists verging on Socialism [*laughter*]; persons with either no idea of property or with a perverted view; or at least, if not people dyed with speculative errors on the subject, at all events persons ready to throw the interests of a particular class in Ireland into the political arena, and to make political capital out of the losses which they were inflicting on the owners of land in Ireland. When I listened to that style of criticism, and heard the epithets with which it was enforced, I really did not know whether I was standing on my head or on my heels. [*Laughter.*] I ask myself whether they are mad or whether I am mad. [*Laughter.*] I am quite sure one of the two must be. I am quite sure either they are or I am under some extraordinary delusion, or are the victims of some strange obsession. [*Laughter.*] I look through the clauses of the Bill in vain to find even the most microscopic justification for the attacks which have been made upon it. [*Nationalist cheers.*] When I boil down the speeches of my hon. Friends to try to find out what is the real residuum of their complaint, upon my word I cannot discover it. [*Laughter and Nationalist cheers.*] I do not believe that a single one of the gentlemen belonging to what is called the Landlord Party who have taken part in the discussion of this Bill will be a penny the worse for any line, sub-section, or section of the Measure. I cannot conceive their interests being injuriously affected, and if, as I believe, this Bill will give great assistance to purchase and will carry away the roots of any possible agitation—legitimate agitation—in Ireland they will be great gainers by the Measure. Why, then, are we to be accused of this indifference to the rights of property? I took notes of the speech of my hon. and gallant Friend the Member for North Armagh, and all I can find in those notes is that we have raised the limit of certain kinds of farms from 50 acres to 100 acres; or in other words, that we have brought in a certain number of tenants at present excluded from the Land Act, but who differ in no particular from tenants who are already excluded, and who have no resemblance whatever to the large grazing speculator to whom the authors of the Act of 1881, quite rightly, did not propose to give the benefits of that Measure. [*Nationalist cheers.*] Beyond that, all my hon. Friend did was to make some jokes about incorporeal hereditaments, but how my hon. Friend is going to be injured by the clause dealing with incorporeal hereditaments I am utterly unable to understand. I do not wish to deal with the turbary clause because I made a speech last night, or rather, a few hours ago, in which I put the case for legislation of this kind. I then pointed out that that clause was not a clause transferring from the landlord to the tenant things which the landlord might give or withhold from the tenant at his own pleasure. I showed that the words of the clause make it perfectly clear that the clause only deals with privileges which are an essential part of a holding.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: The Land Commission is to decide that.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: That I do not deny. So long as my hon. Friend admits, as he must admit, that the clause only deals with those things which, in the opinion of a Court—a Court which we are obliged to presume is competent—are necessary for the enjoyment of the holding, the whole fabric of his argument, based as it is on an insufficient knowledge of the case, absolutely falls to the ground. [*Nationalist cheers.*] I do not propose to go in detail through the Bill. But one point remains, and it is a fundamental point. It has been made by my hon. Friend the member for Dublin University, and it was suggested, if not made, by my hon. Friend the member for West Belfast, in the speech he has just made. We are told by these critics, and in my opinion rightly told, that by the road of purchase, and by the road of purchase only, can we find ultimate salvation in regard to the land controversies of Ireland, and then they went on to say that, holding that opinion, they could not support a Bill which by an extension of the privileges of the tenants makes the tenants less disposed to think that argument is based on a misconception. My view of this legislation and of the Act of 1887, for which I am responsible, is that, so far as landlord and tenant are concerned, we are bound to proceed upon the lines of the Act of 1881; we are bound to make that Act a workable Act; we are bound to remove the friction and injustice which time has shown to attend its working; and we are bound to do what we can to prevent the provisions of that Act giving rise to that very kind of agitation which the Act itself was intended to prevent. Do not believe that you will ever induce the tenants of Ireland to purchase simply by leaving the position of certain of them neglected; by leaving in them a sense of injustice, or by leaving unremedied the defects of the Land Act. It is not by irritating the Irish tenants or by leaving causes of irritation in connection with the relations of landlord and tenant that you will drive the Irish tenants and the Irish landlords to meet together and make bargains of purchase. [*Nationalist cheers.*] That is not the method by which the great end of purchase can be attained? and the House would be entering on an utterly wrong and foolish policy if they supposed that by leaving grievances unredressed they would be promoting purchase. The only motive upon which we can rely is the general desire on the part of the tenants to purchase their holdings, to become absolute owners and masters of the holdings in which their fathers lived, and in which they desire that they and their descendants should live. [*Nationalist cheers.*] That they shall have all the advantages of ownership, and that there shall be combined with them a diminution of their pecuniary burdens, which is actually provided by the purchase schemes of the Unionist Party. If you ask why purchase is not going on more rapidly, I should point to a large number of political causes which have been attended with disastrous results; and, in addition to those political causes there have been economic causes undoubtedly at work. Unquestionably the continuous and disastrous fall of prices has most naturally discouraged a certain number of tenants from going into Court and committing themselves to a perpetual annuity based on conditions which are changing. But this fall in prices cannot in the nature of things be permanent. Some time, I hope soon, an economic equilibrium will be reached, and as soon as the conviction that that has been reached comes home to the Irish tenant, then I believe that no agitation and no legislation, no political dreams or aspirations, will prevent the tenants from doing all they can to promote the successful working of the purchase clauses of this and of previous Acts. My hon. Friends have moved the rejection of the Bill. I confess that I have never in my Parliamentary experience heard the rejection of a great Bill like this moved on pretexts which seemed to me so absolutely flimsy. [*Opposition cheers.*] I know that my hon. Friends feel strongly on one or two points. They think that we have accepted Amendments from the other side of the House and have rejected Amendments from this side of the House. Sir, the Bill is now substantially the Bill which was discussed in Committee. It is true that many drafting Amendments have been accepted from both sides; but it is not true that we have accepted from the other side of the House, any more than from this, large and far-reaching Amendments. [*Nationalist* *cheers.*] The Bill that we now ask the House to read a Third time is the Bill that was before the House on the first day of the discussion. Substantially it is identical; and I am bound to say that the criticisms of three or four clauses which my hon. Friend named, even if those criticisms were better founded, and it were true, as I think it is not, that those clauses are inimical to the interests of the Irish landlords, are absolutely insufficient to justify so serious a step as that of endeavouring at the last moment to prevent the House from giving the Bill a Third Reading. No, Sir, if I understand anything about the Measure introduced by my right hon. Friend, it is a Measure to which no advocate of the rights of property, however ardent, however stern in his orthodoxy, need have any objection. It is a Bill which, traversing the vast field of Irish land legislation in all its branches, does remedy a large number of generally admitted defects. As such, every man who desires the prosperity of the landed interest in Ireland, be it the interest of the landlord or that of the tenant, every man who desires peace and prosperity in Ireland, ought to do his best to see that the Bill becomes law broadly and substantially in the shape in which I hope it will now receive a Third Reading from the House. [*Cheers.*]

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): No one can deny that the Debate we have listened to is interesting and instructive. It is very old history, this Debate upon the condition of Ireland and especially of Irish land. We have an old drama, but with a very new cast. [*Laughter and cheers.*] We have had a denunciation of the policy of the Unionist Government coming from a party which in the words of the hon. and gallant Member for Armagh, are called the English garrison. [*Cheers.*] The hon. and gallant Gentleman objects to having the bones of the English garrison rattled by a Unionist Government. [*Laughter.*] Well Sir, as to the bones of the hon. and gallant Gentleman, there is no man in this House, to whatever Party he belongs, who will not wish that those dry bones may live long. [*Laughter.*] We have had various imagery applied by the English garrison to express their views as to the conduct and policy of the Unionist Government. We were bad enough when we chastised them with whips; but there are people now who are to introduce scorpions into Ireland [*laughter*], and I suppose that even St. Patrick will not be able to expel them introduced under such auspices. [*Laughter.*] Then we had a remarkable speech, though I do not agree with it, from the hon. Member for Belfast. I confess that I was surprised to hear from the hon. Member, considering the name he bears, a denunciation of the policy of 1881. That was a policy introduced by a Liberal Government, and by a great Liberal Minister; and it is the object of this Bill to adopt and to develop the Liberal policy of 1881. [*Cheers.*] The hon. Member for Belfast declares that in this just treatment of the tenants of Ireland no salvation is to be found; and he is in accordance with the First Lord of the Treasury, who disagrees with the original policy of 1881, and who almost reproaches the English garrison for not having assisted him to defeat it. But the right hon. Gentleman says there is no salvation for Ireland except in purchase. What is purchase in Ireland? It is deliverance from the English garrison. [*Cheers.*] It is employing the resources of the State to reconcile Ireland by providing it with another garrison. That is a policy of social despair. [*Cheers.*] The English garrison is to be bought out; and that is what the First Lord calls the only salvation of Ireland. That is a declaration on which it is right that the House and the country should profoundly reflect. That is the outcome of the deliberations of the Unionist Government. It is a grave and serious declaration, which has a great bearing on what is called Unionist policy. The hon. and gallant Member for Armagh and his friends have spoken of this Bill with language of indignation. A man has a right to be indignant when he pleases, and with what he pleases. But the hon. and gallant Gentleman spoke of the Bill also in language of surprise; and I do not think he was entitled to be surprised, because all history tells us that this is the record of Conservative Governments. [*Cheers and laughter.*] Their principal supporters are always surprised at what they do when they come into power. [*Laughter and cheers.*] If they had been speaking a century ago, they might have been entitled to be surprised. But I see sitting on the Benches opposite, with an air, if he will forgive me for saying so, of pensive melancholy, the modern Gibbon [*laughter*], who has composed the earlier chapters of the "Decline and Fall of the English Garrison." [*Renewed laughter and cheers.*] He has hitherto observed the transactions of the British Parliament from a distance, and we have all read with interest and instruction his luminous pages. But I look forward with interest to the future chapter on Unionist Legislation in Ireland, which, I have no doubt, he is now revolving in his mind. [*Laughter and cheers.*] But what right has the hon. and gallant Member for Armagh to be surprised? He has read the works of the hon Member for Dublin University. He knows how the greatest of all Tory Ministers had to resign because he desired to do justice to the Catholics of Ireland. He knows how the Tory Party, who were the Protestant Party, the English garrison party, ultimately, after years of contest, conceded something to the great majority of the people of Ireland in Catholic emancipation; and how they were denounced by their own friends, as they are again to-day, with the exclamation, *Nusquam tuta fides.* When the great Protectionist Party, with a majority considered as extraordinary as that which the Government enjoys to-day, came in and overwhelmed with defeat the Party of free trade—that Protectionist Party with its great majority affirmed the principles which it was elected to denounce and was in turn denounced by a greater master of rhetoric even than the hon. and gallant Member for Armagh. Mr. Disraeli, on these Benches, denounced the Government of that day as an organised hypocrisy, whose Leaders had bought their Party in the cheapest market and sold it in the dearest. We know perfectly well that in 1887, to come to a nearer date—Oh! I had forgotten another incident. That was the Party which denounced the lowering of the suffrage, but, once it returned to power, it introduced household suffrage. I remember hearing myself the present Prime Minister of England, from those Benches, denouncing the Conservative surrender of the Government of that day. Why, Sir, the policy of 1881 was denounced by the right hon. Gentleman and his Friends. They came in with a majority almost as great as that which they enjoy to-day in the year 1886. They were asked for a revision of judicial rents in consequence of the distress of the Irish tenants. They declared that nothing would induce them to commit so immoral an act as to revise judicial rents. I read, last night I think, the language of the Prime Minister on that subject; he was outdone in moral indignation by the First Lord of the Admiralty. He then introduced a clause for revision of judicial rents, and to show the consistency of their conduct they took that clause out and then they put it back again, and so this great act of public immorality was accomplished with a decent amount of vacillation and tergiversation to give it an air of comparative morality. [*Laughter.*] I do not charge the present Government with inconsistency with the traditions of their Party. That is what you have a right to expect. You may be indignant if you like, but you are not entitled to say that you are surprised. [*Laughter.*] I observe that the Leader of the House has a comfortable doctrine for some of those Gentlemen who sit on the Front Bench. It is only the Cabinet who are to be condemned, and subordinate Members are guiltless in this terrible betrayal. I am sure the Solicitor General for Ireland must feel satisfied to take shelter under that ægis—[*laughter*]—for this Bill cannot be said to reflect the sentiments he formerly expressed. And the benefit of the same immunity must belong to the Under Secretary for War and to the Secretary to the Admiralty. The hon. Member for Down was rebuked by the First Lord of the Treasury for introducing the names of the *Dii Minores* of the Government. But the *Dii Minores* are not entirely uninfluential in this Bill. I desire to do justice to the hon. Member for South Tyrone in this connection, though there is one point on which I think I should have to observe with reference to the part he is placed in. I do not complain of the antagonism of the Members who sit below the Government Gangway. I agree rather with the right hon. Gentleman who has just spoken when he said that he is unable to discover in this Bill exactly how they are hurt. I suppose they know best themselves, but they had not explained it in a manner he could understand. No doubt there seemed to be some great grievance about incorporeal hereditaments, but that was the only thing I gathered from the hon. and learned

Member for Armagh. For myself, as far as I understand the matter, the Irish landlords are left very much in the position in which they were before. While landlords in England have suffered, they have been protected in the enjoyment of a higher rent than the economic condition of things entitled them to by the Act of 1881. They have enjoyed a judicial rent fixed at a period—it so happens and the fact has not been noted in these Debates, that the highest level which rent reached in England, according to the Income Tax Returns was in 1880—which gave them a higher rent than they would have had but for the Act of 1881. And no doubt what the right hon. Gentleman had said was perfectly true that the Purchase Clauses are mainly for their advantage. They have been made favourable from the extreme desire of the Unionist Party to buy them out of Ireland—[*laughter*]—and at the public expense, and so great is the advantage of getting rid of the Irish landlords, the "English garrison," that we are told the right hon. Gentleman made great sacrifices to accomplish so great a salvation for Ireland. [*Laughter.*] That is the history of the Purchase Clauses. As to the Bill itself, I have said that this Bill is a disappointment. It will prove a disappointment because we have been told by all parties who know the subject best that it will be no settlement, not even a temporary settlement, of the Land Question in Ireland. I believe that to be perfectly true. What is the period upon which we are entering upon the consideration of a new Land Bill for Ireland? It is not like 1887, when you are proposing a temporary benefit to meet an occasion which has arisen. No; it is a revision after the lapse of 15 years of the system which has been in operation since 1881, and when you come to revise that system you are bound to take a full and complete view of the situation by the light of the experience you have had for the last 15 years. You are bound, in renewing a lease, to consider the conditions under the old lease, to remedy the defects that were apparent. In the same way you were bound to meet the question in a manner which might have made a settlement which, if not permanent—you cannot have a permanent settlement of this question—would, at all events, have lasted for 15 or 10 years more. That is what you ought to have done. That is what, in 1885, we attempted to do. The hon. Member for South Mayo has pointed out what struck me were the four main things you wanted to be dealt with if you desired to do any good. The first thing was the question of improvements. That is a question which has perplexed Irish Judges, Irish tenants, Irish landlords; everybody desired there should be some solution of it. Nobody felt that more than the Government themselves. I have here a sentence from the Leader of the House upon the Bill of the last Government in April 1895, and he said this:—

> "What we have suffered from is the turning of men on to land to settle judicial rents without giving them any principle whatever by which to come to a decision."

How have you attempted to remedy this in the Bill? You knew it was the great difficulty. The right hon. Gentleman in opening the question in his long and able speech upon this Bill, dwelt largely upon it, and he spoke of the famous and terrible case of "Adams *v.* Dunseath." What has he done to make "Adams *v.* Dunseath" less famous and less terrible? Why, he has left it exactly where it was. [*Laughter.*] It was one of the most extraordinary pieces of legal subtlety, which has introduced the greatest confusion into the administration of the law. The right hon. Gentleman speaks of the famous and terrible case of "Adams *v.* Dunseath"; he recognises that it was his business to disarm the terrors of that case, and he introduces a clause into the Bill for that purpose. What has become of that clause? It has disappeared, and the whole of this question of improvements is left exactly in the same position of disastrous confusion in which it originally was.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No, no!

SIR W. HARCOURT: Where are your improvements? Where is your definition of the point? What was the difficulty? It was the apportionment of the enhanced letting value. What light have you shed on that?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: That was only one point.

SIR W. HARCOURT: But why was the case terrible except that it had left to those very persons, without any direction, the settling of judicial rents, as the First Lord of the Treasury says, without giving them any principle whatever by which to come to a decision? You have done nothing to define that matter, and you leave it as it was before. The next point mentioned by the hon. Member for East Mayo was the shortening of the term. Everyone has felt that one of the great grievances of the people of Ireland is that a number of men, for want of the shortening of the term, are excluded from the benefit of the Act. We had the strongest testimony as to the feeling of the people of Ulster on that subject. We had the testimony of the hon. Member for South Tyrone how strongly Ulster feels on that subject. How have you settled that question? You leave the feeling of Ulster just as dissatisfied on the subject of the shortening of the term as it was before the Bill was introduced. I have borne testimony to the good service which the hon. Member for South Tyrone has rendered generally in favour of the cause of the tenants of Ireland on this Bill, but I must mitigate my approbation of his conduct on the subject of the shortening of the term. He made a speech last night in which, with his usual eloquence, he involved himself in his own virtues. [*Laughter.*] I will not say, in the language of the Roman poet, that, "When fortune turned against him he resigned her gifts"—[*laughter*]—but he certainly proceeded to involve himself in his own virtues and said, "Oh, I was always against this; my record is clear." I saw a quotation—I do not know whether it is correct—in a newspaper this morning of an extract from a letter written by him on March 15th 1895, in which he said:—

> "No man could object to the proposed new period of 10 instead of 15 years; most of the witnesses before the Committee concurred in thinking that the present term was too long."

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.): In the speech yesterday I said nothing about the period of ten years. What I objected to yesterday was the retrospective character of the Amendment of the hon. Member breaking the statutory period now running. ["Oh, oh!"] The Amendment of the hon. Member for East Mayo was in two parts, but I looked at it as a whole. I did not treat the first part of it at all; I let that alone, and I confined my observations to the retrospective character of the second point.

SIR W. HARCOURT: I have no desire to press the hon. Member, partly because I recognise the services he has rendered, and still more because the First Lord of the Treasury has stated that he has no responsibility for this Bill. [*Laughter.*] Then there is the third case—that of the future tenant. Here, again, you have done nothing. In the Bill of 1895 we attempted to deal with these questions—questions which are, without doubt, a source of great disquiet and great dissatisfaction in Ireland. The question of future tenant affects some 30,000 or 40,000 persons. How do you suppose that a Bill which leaves this dissatisfaction in the minds of so large a body of tenants is going to give even temporary satisfaction on the Land Question in Ireland? Next, we have the question of town parks. There, again, you decline to give a definition; you leave it in a state of absolute uncertainty; you leave it to one Sub-Commissioner to determine it in one way, and to another Sub-Commissioner to determine it in another. So great an *impasse* have you got into in the case of "Adams *v.* Dunseath" that it cannot be altered except by legislation, and you now refuse to clear it up by legislation. How, then, are you going to settle the Land Question in Ireland? You have not given a definition of what is the share of the landlord of that enhanced value of the land, and what is the share of the tenant.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: That is not the principal point in "Adams *v.* Dunseath."

SIR W. HARCOURT: But it is the critical point—as to whether the inherent capability of the land is to be admitted. You have attempted to solve it, and you say that you have failed; and so you have said of all the really difficult questions in this Bill. Why is it that you have failed to settle these difficult questions which will leave a great disturbance of the settlement of land in Ireland? Because you have not chosen to give time to the House of Commons to discuss them. [*Cheers.*] The difficulties in the conduct of your business have led you to drive into the last days of July a Measure which required the most careful and fullest consideration;

and yet the Secretary for the Colonies told the House :—

> "Here is a Land Bill; if you like to have it in three days you may; if not, you won't have it at all."

That is the spirit and the tone in which the Bill has been dealt with. The right hon. Gentleman has very properly thanked both sides of the House for the pains they have endured, what one may properly call "the intolerable strain" put upon them ; but when the Leader of the House suspended the Twelve o'clock Rule he said that he did not mean to extend the sittings largely. Has he kept that promise with reference to the Irish Land Bill? [*Cheers.*] What is the use of discussing these difficult questions if you expect to solve them properly when time has not been given to consider the difficulties of the case? [*Cheers.*] What would you Gentlemen opposite have said to us in 1895 if we had said : "You must pass the Irish Land Bill in three days?" We know how proposals of that character would have been dealt with. We know, I think, how the House of Lords would have dealt with a Bill discussed at 5 o'clock in the morning [*Cheers.*] You take up the most complicated and difficult problems connected with Irish land and hustle an Irish Land Bill through at 5 o'clock in the morning because you have not chosen to give proper time for the discussion of so difficult and so dangerous a question, and think that you have settled the Land Question in Ireland. Every one knows you have done nothing of the kind. What is to be done with this Bill? The Bill will be passed by the House of Commons. I am glad, for many reasons, that the Bill is going to be passed. First of all, because of the reason that the hon. Member for West Belfast is disposed to criticise it severely, and, next, because it is an acknowledgment of the absolute adoption at the end of 15 years, of the policy inaugurated by the Liberal Party in 1881. [*Cheers.*] That of itself is an advantage, because after the lapse of that period, and after that experience, the Conservative Party have adopted that policy. Above all, I welcome it because I take it from the mouth of the hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh that it is a condemnation of the doctrine that the government of Ireland should depend on what we call the English garrison. [*Cheers.*] The Conservative Party for years have made as the basis of their policy that they should favour, as the hon. and gallant Member said he expected they would favour in their policy, what he calls the English garrison. If it be true that the Tory Party in England has ceased to be identified with the Landlord Party in Ireland a great good will have been accomplished by the passing of this Bill. That, to my mind is the moral of this Bill, and, in my opinion, it is a very good moral to be drawn. The mischiefs in Ireland which Land Bills endeavour to correct have arisen from what has been, I think a very unfortunate system. The landlords of Ireland have not been the improvers, the makers, of the fertility of the land in Ireland, and that is what makes the great difference between the relations of landlord and tenant in England as distinguished from the relations of landlord and tenant in Ireland. It is that, to a great degree, which has created all these mischiefs which we have endeavoured to remedy. Unfortunately, also, religious differences have alienated the two sections of society in Ireland, and it has been a very great misfortune hitherto that the Tory Party have leant entirely upon what he calls the English garrison in Ireland. If that is the spirit in which this Bill has been introduced ; if in future you are going to look neither to one Party nor to the other for your garrison in Ireland ; if you are going to make the English garrison in Ireland the bulk of the Irish people, then I think at last you will have grasped the true principles upon which Ireland alone can be reconciled and pacified. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that the Leader of the Opposition had expressed a well-founded doubt whether the Liberal Party would have been allowed to pass a Bill of this kind through Committee in four or five days, and to sit up for the purpose until 4 and 5 in the morning. Were the Irish Members, then, to be blamed for having taken advantage of a favourable moment when, the Opposition being in sympathy with them, the Government of the day were willing to sit through the night in order to carry the Bill? If this attenuated Bill had excited the wrath of the Landlord Party in that House, in what a mauled and tattered condition would a Morley Land Bill come back from the House of Lords! That was a consideration which had not been without influence upon him in his acceptance of this Measure. But there had even been threats of opposition in the House of Lords to this Bill. If there was likelihood of that in the case of so moderate a Measure, what chance of favourable consideration would there be for a Bill like that of the right hon. Member for Montrose? It came to this—when the Liberal Party were in office they passed good Measures through the House of Commons which were mauled or rejected by the House of Lords; when the Tory Party were in Office they endeavoured to effect some reasonable reforms of which, if they were in Opposition, they would perhaps be the strongest opponents. [*Laughter and* "Hear, hear!"] Reference had been made to the fact that Lord Lansdowne was to pilot the Bill through the House of Lords. If Lord Lansdowne acted, as he felt sure he would, on his responsibility as a Member of the Government, there would be nothing to regret in that circumstance. Was it not a matter of some consequence to the Nationalist Members, a feeble folk who were endeavouring to make their way through the interstices of British Parties, that a Bill of this kind should have the protection of a gentleman in the position of Lord Lansdowne, whose brother, Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, was one of the strongest opponents of the Bill of 1881? For his part he endeavoured to cut his coat according to his cloth, and when an endeavour was being made to pass a Measure of moderate relief for the Irish people he was ready in their interests to extract from it such benefits as he might, leaving the moral to take care of itself. If it was the case that the Bill was not offered to the tenants of Ireland as a final Measure, its passage would not prevent Gentlemen of stronger views than his from agitating for further reforms. He should be curious to see a Bill drafted by the hon. Member for South Mayo. If the hon. Member should draft a Bill to carry out his views on the subject of land nationalisation, he feared that the Measure would have as much difficulty in passing through an Irish House of Commons as it would encounter in an English Parliament. [*Laughter and* "Hear, hear!"] After 15 years of struggling in that House they had at last obtained some Amendments of the Act of 1881, Amendments which were pressed in vain upon the Ministers of that day. He was not prepared to wait for another period of 15 years for a better Bill than this, mindful of the French proverb which said that, "the better is the enemy of the good," and he should look back with pride and satisfaction to the support which he had been able to give to the Government in the interests of this Measure. ["Hear, hear!"]

Question, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question," put and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time; verbal Amendments made. Bill passed.

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## FINANCE BILL.

Motion made, "That this Bill be read the Third time."

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said that he wished to give the Bill a few parting words of benediction. The part of the Measure dealing with the Death Duties might effect some improvement. There were 10 operative clauses in that part of the Bill, and in seven out of those 10 clauses he seemed to recognise his own features, although they had undergone alteration at the hands of the wicked draftsman. These clauses would undoubtedly assist most materially the administration of the Act of 1894, and they got rid of some of the more oppressive and tyrannical provisions of the Act. But there was still much to be done, and he trusted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would bear in mind that, whilst they were grateful to him for what he had done, they had a lively sense of future favours to come next year. He had, however, to make two remarks upon the Bill. In Section 24 an impossibility was enacted. It was now July 29th, and that section enacted that part of the Act should come into operation on the 1st day of July. That was, of course, a slip. A similar slip occurred in the Finance Act of 1894, but it was put right by an Amendment under which the operation of the Act was postponed to

August 2nd. That, however, was done in Committee. In this case the efflux of time had taken place after Committee. He believed, however, that it would be possible to make the Amendment; but if the Chancellor of the Exchequer chose to leave that blot in the Act, he should not complain. A far more important point arose in Section 38. It was a principle of legislation that in a Money Bill of Supply for the service of the year—which Bill could not be amended and could only be accepted or rejected by the House of Lords—no matter other than such as related to the Supply of the year should be introduced. That principle was very clearly laid down in Sir Erskine May's work on Parliamentary practice. This Clause 38 was obnoxious to that principle, for it contained matter foreign to the supply of the year. It provided that any person admitted as a solicitor, who was employed by the Solicitor for the Inland Revenue, might appear in the County Court. That was the only clause in the Bill which did not immediately relate to the Supply of the year. It dealt with a purely domestic concern of the Inland Revenue, and empowered the Solicitor to the Inland Revenue to authorise another person to appear in his place in the County Court. That might be necessary, but it ought not to find a place in a Supply Bill, and its insertion in this Bill afforded a shocking instance of "tacking." It was an Amendment of the Inland Revenue Regulation Act of 1890. In 1890 there was also a Supply Bill, but it dealt with nothing else, and when this question was dealt with in that year it was put into a separate Bill. He trusted that it might not be thought that he was nice or hypercritical in criticising these matters. He did not propose to make any Motion. He only made this statement for the purpose of drawing attention to what he thought was a very unfortunate perpetuation by the Government of a bad practice. He was extremely anxious that nothing in any way irregular should be done by the House without a protest from those who, like him, believed in the essential importance of preserving the safeguards with which both Houses had surrounded questions of finance.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said he proposed to offer a few words of criticism on the Third Reading of the Bill. The first subject to which he wished to allude was the Tea Duty. He regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had found himself unable, owing to practical difficulties, to differentiate between high-priced and low-priced teas, and to place a heavier duty upon the former than upon the latter. He did not know whether those difficulties could be overcome or not, but it was most unfortunate that the consumers of the low-priced teas, who belonged to the poorest classes of the community, had to pay the same duty on the low-priced tea as those who could afford a higher-priced article. He also regretted that an Amendment to reduce the duty on tea had not been carried. The reason that the Chancellors of the Exchequer had given in previous years for declining to reduce or abolish the duty on tea, was that the state of the revenue did not permit it. But never had there been such an opportunity of abolishing a duty on a necessary article of diet as had occurred this year. It was a long time since there had been such a surplus in the Treasury, and it would be long before a similar opportunity would occur. The abolition of the duty on tea had been proposed year after year by Members of both Parties, and he did not bring the matter forward as a Party question. The abolition or reduction of the duty would be an encouragement to trade between Ceylon and India and this country, because 88 per cent. of the tea used in this country was imported from those dependencies, and such a Measure would be some set-off against the rather shabby way in which India had been dealt with in some respects during the present Session. With regard to the Income Tax, he thanked the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the spirit in which he approached the question of graduation. The principle of graduating the taxes a man had to pay out of his property to the State, whether those taxes were paid by his estate on his death or out of his income during his life, was a sound and equitable principle. It had already been carried into law in regard to the Estate Duty, and the principle had also been adopted to some extent in the assessment of Income Tax, an abatement of £150 now being allowed in regard to all incomes under £500 a year. No attempt had been made to upset the principle of graduation of the Estate Duty, which was now accepted by both

Parties in the State, and was now permanently established as a part of our fiscal system. All he asked for was the extension of that principle in its fullness to the Income Tax. The pressure of Income Tax was most severe on persons of small and moderate incomes, and as they were unable to levy duty on luxuries *ad valorem*, it was all the more necessary that they should deal leniently with people of small means. The objections which had been raised as to the graduations of Income Tax could, he thought, be overcome by a Chancellor of the Exchequer who really desired to carry out this reform. If the tax were charged in full on all incomes as at present, the payer of Income Tax being allowed to claim abatement on a scale graduated in proportion to his income, there would be no difficulty to overcome which was not successfully dealt with at the present time. The reform he proposed was sound in principle, that principle had already been accepted by them in regard to the Estate Duty and Income Tax, and it would be carried out without causing any deficit to the Revenue. His proposal was that incomes under £500 a year should pay fourpence in the pound, those under £750 sixpence and those under £1,000 eightpence, the deficiency being made up by additional taxation on incomes over £1,000. The third and last question on the Finance Bill to which he desired to draw attention was the proposal it contained with reference to the Land Tax. The effect of the remission of Land Tax over 1s. in the £1 would be to hand over the difference between that amount, and the additional amount now paid in some parts of the country to individual landowners. No question could arise in this case as had arisen in the case of the Rating Bill as to whether the benefit of the remission was received by the landlord or the tenant. In this case the land-owner and the land-owner only would reap the advantage. Whether his estate had been acquired by inheritance or by purchase it was unfair for the State to make a gift of this kind to the individual at the expense of the general taxpayer. If the estate had been acquired by inheritance the land had always been held subject to the same tax, every arrangement made in connection with the estate had been made on that basis and the individual owner therefore suffered no real injustice. But if the payer of Land Tax was a recent purchaser it was still more inequitable to make him a present at the expense of the State, because the price he had paid for the land was less by the capitalised value of the Land Tax, and the remission of a part of the Land Tax simply put the capitalised value of the tax remitted straight into his pocket. Take the concrete case of an estate in a Southern county with a rental of £1,000 a year, purchased a year ago, subject to a Land Tax of 4s. in the £1. The owner who has paid less for the estate because it was subject to the payment of Land Tax at 4s. would obtain a remission of 3s. in the £1, which would be equivalent to a sum of £150 per annum or a capital sum of £4,500. This was equivalent to a direct gift of that amount to a wealthy person by a State which raised the larger part of its income from the taxation of articles which were largely consumed by the working classes. But it was contended that the incidence of the Land Tax as between county and county was unfair. Then why should a remission be given to the individual land-owner and to the county? If instead of paying the amount to the individual, it were given to the general county rate, the injustice to the county would be removed. Although the Land Tax had been dealt with, as he contended most unjustly, the fact that it had been so dealt with would bring to the front the important question of the taxation of land values, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would find that this would be one of the most burning financial questions of the future. ["Hear, hear!"]

*COLONEL MILWARD (Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon) said that he was afraid that hon. Members opposite did not realise the depression which agriculture suffered from at this moment. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer, when discussing the Land Tax, had said that he approved of a policy that would give relief to agriculture. Hon. Members who represented agricultural constituencies were not in the least afraid of Parliament reverting to the state of things that was brought about under the Act of 1798, which imposed a tax upon houses as well as upon land. Such an Act would raise the rents of every man in the country and especially those of the working men. He did not envy any Chancellor of the Exchequer who should propose a tax that would raise the rent of the working men. If they went back to the Act of William and Mary of 1694, they would find that a heavy tax was placed upon personal property as well as upon land. He thanked the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the relief that he had given to agriculture under this Bill. He was sorry, however, that the right hon. Gentleman had been compelled to disappoint a great number of people by keeping the Income Tax at 8d. in the pound. It ought to have been reduced to 7d. with the ultimate view of reducing it to 6d., at which it should remain while peace continued.

**MR. LOUGH** said that the present Bill was marked by one or two defects to which he desired to advert. He hoped that any reduction of the Tea Duty would not take the form of substituting an *ad valorem* duty for the present form of taxation, because such a change would not have a good effect upon the trade. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made a slight mistake on the last occasion that this matter was under discussion when he said that the average price of tea which came into this country was 9¾d. or 10d. a pound.

**THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER** (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) said that he did not say that. He had been misreported on the point.

**MR. LOUGH** said that he was very glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman make that statement. We received small quantities of tea from India that were of the value of 3s. per pound. As to cocoa butter, it was a small matter, but there was a large principle in it. He regretted that the tax upon cocoa butter should, at the instance of the hon. Member for Sheffield and at the instance of a few traders, have been hastily introduced into the Budget. He objected to the Budget because it was very unfair to Ireland. The abolition of the Land Tax would not affect Ireland. Yet the funds to make up for this were collected from Ireland as well as from Great Britain; and so Great Britain was relieved at the expense of Ireland. If agricultural rates in Ireland were to be relieved on the same scale as in England and Scotland, £750,000 would be required. But they had only £180,000 for the purpose, yet the funds from which assistance was given elsewhere were collected equally from Ireland. The readjustment of the beer duty in favour of the brewers was nothing short of a scandal.

**MR. MAURICE HEALY** (Cork) appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the interests of the legal profession, to do something to codify the law relating to Income Tax. Scattered over 50 Acts of Parliament, it was absolutely unintelligible and incomprehensible, and a lawyer, if his advice was sought on a point, had to spend days studying these Acts to find out what the law was. At present the law was only understood by Income Tax officials.

**THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER** said that during the Recess he would give his attention to the points that had been raised and the suggestion made in the discussion. He now appealed to the House to pass the Third Reading of the Bill.

Bill read the Third time, and passed.

## TRUCK BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [27th July] on Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), further adjourned till To-morrow.

## LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS [EXCISE DUTY].

Resolution reported,—

"That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an additional excise duty on every light locomotive which is liable to duty, either as a carriage or as a hackney carriage, under section four of The Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1888, at the following rate:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds one ton unladen, but does not exceed two tons unladen ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds two tons unladen ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |

such excise duty to be paid annually; and the proceeds of such duty to be paid into the Local Taxation Accounts."

Resolution agreed to.

## LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred till To-morrow.

### UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### TELEGRAPH MONEY BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Friday.

### WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Friday.

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## SUPPLY [24TH JULY].

### REPORT :—POSTPONED RESOLUTIONS.

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS IV.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £616,077 (including a Supplementary sum of £3,375), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland,"——

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the First Resolution."

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.) called attention to the position of the assistant teachers, who, he said, were extremely anxious to be paid the class salaries to which they were entitled. Take the case of a first class teacher who was teaching under a third class principal. Such a teacher, because he happened to pursue his calling under a third class principal only received third class pay. Supposing, however, that a partition was put up in the school, and the first class teacher was taken from under the wing of the third class principal, then he got the class pay to which he was entitled. Could anything be more absurd? The assistants had to perform duties equally as arduous as those which were undertaken by the principals, and he hoped this grievance, of which they justly complained, would be redressed with as little delay as possible. It was not denied by the Treasury that a large sum of money had been filched from the Irish teachers, and the course he had suggested might be one means of recouping them in a small way. The sum involved by this small concession would be trifling, whilst it would be sufficient to give great satisfaction to a very deserving body of men in the teaching profession. The hon. Member also complained that, whereas the assistant teachers in National Schools had to do more work than those employed in Model Schools, the latter received £10 a year more than their less fortunate brethren. He urged that this inequality should be remedied by increasing the pay of the assistants in the National Schools.

MR. MICHAEL FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) supported what had been said by the hon. Member for South Monaghan as to the grievances of the assistant teachers in National Schools, and quoted resolutions from teachers in his own constituency urging the payment of class salaries.

MR. DILLON complained that, as this Vote had been brought on unexpectedly, he had not the papers with him which were necessary to the proper discussion of certain matters which he wished to raise. On the question of Model Schools he should like to have some declaration of policy from the Chief Secretary. The expenditure on these schools was something like £30,000 a year. They professed to be a little superior to the National Schools; but, except in the North of Ireland, they were to a large extent deserted, and nothing like adequate results were obtained for such a large expenditure. Protests had over and over again been made against this system by those interested in Catholic education in Ireland without any result, and he should like to know whether it was the intention of the Government to look into the question of the school system in Ireland and make any proposal with regard to it in the coming Session? In a Report published as an appendix to the Annual Report of the Commissioners of National Education, it was casually stated by one of the Inspectors that he had no right to be present at the lessons given in the Central Model School, Marlborough Street, Dublin, which was a training school for the teachers attending the Marlborough Training College. He should like to know whether this institution was or was not subject to inspection, like other Model Schools.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR was afraid he was in the same position as the hon. Member, and had not the papers with him that would enable him to go fully into these questions. His impression was that a regulation had been or was about to be issued subjecting all Model Schools to inspection, like other schools. He thought they had been inspected under certain conditions, but not the full conditions under which other schools were inspected. As regarded the question of Model Schools generally, he knew it was a subject which had been very much debated, in which much interest had been centred, and to which criticism directed. He had not complete information on the question, but would inquire into it during the Recess, although he could not pledge the Government to any action with regard to it for next year. With reference to the point raised by the hon. Member, he could not agree with him that the change he suggested would not involve a considerable expenditure. The question was really a national one, and the view the Commissioners took was that at present it would not be desirable to make the change. They drew a sharp distinction between the duties performed by the principals and by the asssistant teachers. The latter had not got the responsibilities laid upon them which were laid upon the principals, and if these financial changes were made and the assistant teachers got class salaries, there would be a larger expenditure of public money, and he was also afraid the result would be that the principals in their turn would become dissatisfied with their position.

MR. GEORGE MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid) moved, "That the Debate be now adjourned."

MR. DILLON, speaking in support of the Motion, complained that the Secretary to the Treasury had treated him rather badly in regard to these postponed Votes. They were adjourned in order that he (Mr. Dillon) might have an opportunity of raising certain questions. The right hon. Gentleman met him in the Lobby and asked if he would consent to the Votes being taken after half-past five, and he replied—"Certainly not."

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): I did not ask the hon. Gentleman's consent. There was no need to do so.

MR. DILLON knew that, but a certain courtesy was usually practised in that House. When he told the right hon. Gentleman that he could not agree to the Votes being taken after half-past five, the Secretary to the Treasury went away without making any observation, and he did not imagine the Votes would be taken. It was, of course, in the power of the Government to show no courtesy, if they were disposed, to their opponents, but that was not the usual way of conducting business.

MR. HANBURY said he did not ask the hon. Member's consent. What he said was that the Votes would probably come on to-night. They had tried to consult the convenience of hon. Members by postponing the Votes twice already—[IRISH MEMBERS: "Only once!"]—and he thought it was only fair to give him notice that they would probably be brought on this evening.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY hoped the hon. Member for Mid Tyrone would not press his Motion. He was asked just now whether he thought the Vote ought to come on, and he said "Yes," for this reason, that he was afraid the alternative was, either bringing it on very late some other night or allowing it to go with the other Votes at the very end of Supply. He thought it would be better and more convenient to discuss it now than to adopt either of these alternatives.

MR. DILLON thought the Secretary to the Treasury ought to have sent them some notice, after what occurred in the Lobby, that they were going to come on that night, as he distinctly left him with the impression that he agreed not to take them that night.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said it was one of those mistakes that sometimes occurred, but he hoped it would not prevent the Motion being withdrawn.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

### CLASS II.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £24,597, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Public Works in Ireland."

### CLASS III.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £41,825, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year

ending on the 31st day of March, 1897, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £42,258 be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necesary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Irish Land Commission."

Second and Third Resolutions further postponed.

Fourth Resolution agreed to.

Postponed Resolutions to be further considered To-morrow.

### OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] further adjourned till To-morrow.

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### LARCENY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [19th May] on Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), further adjourned till To-morrow.

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### BISHOPRIC OF BRISTOL ACT AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Considered in Committee:—

Clause 1,—

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

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### AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY GUARANTEE BILL.

Committee. [Progress, 2nd July].

Clause 1,—

POWER FOR TREASURY TO GUARANTEE INTEREST ON CERTAIN CAPITAL OF WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY COMPANY, ETC.

The Treasury may, on such terms as they think fit, guarantee for a period of thirty years from the date of the opening for passenger traffic of the railway, the payment of interest or dividend at the rate of three pounds per centum per annum on two hundred and sixty thousand pounds of the share and loan capital to be raised under the West Highland Railway Act, 1894, and may, on the completion of the said pier, breakwater, and other works, pay to the company the said sum of thirty thousand pounds, and the sums required for the purposes of this section shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament, and if those moneys are insufficient shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund or the growing produce thereof.

MR. EDWARD STRACHEY (Somerset, S.) hoped the First Lord of the Treasury would not put the Bill down for Thursday night if there was not the slightest intention or possibility of the Government taking it.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he would put the Bill down for Thursday, but would not take it that day.

MR. STRACHEY asked the First Lord if he could say when he would be likely to take it?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: No. We may have a Saturday sitting.

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### STANNARIES BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

Third Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [15th May] further adjourned till To-morrow.

### MILITARY WORKS [MONEY].

Committee thereupon deferred till To-morrow.

### BURGLARY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of this instant July, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at Ten minutes before Six o'clock.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Thursday, 30th July 1896.*

## SAT FIRST.

Lord Moncreiff—Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

## UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889—

(i.) Ordinance No. 151. General No. 34. Regulations as to resignation of Principals and Professors;

(ii.) Ordinance No. 152. General No. 35. Regulations as to examinations, supplementary to Ordinances Nos. 13 and 43;

(iii.) Ordinance No. 153. General No. 36. Regulations as to fees, supplementary to Ordinance No 50;

(iv.) Ordinance No. 154. General No. 37. Regulations for the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, supplementary to Ordinance No. 63:

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed.—(No. 227.)

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

## METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.

Read the Third time.

Clause 26,—

### VESTING IN COMPANY OF SITE AND SOIL OF PORTIONS OF ROAD, ETC., STOPPED UP.

The site and soil of the road and footpaths or portions thereof by this Act authorised to be diverted, stopped up and discontinued, and the fee simple and inheritance thereof shall (except where by this Act otherwise provided), if the Company are, or if and when under the powers of this Act or of any other Act relating to the Company already passed they become the owners of the lands on both sides thereof be from the time of the stopping up thereof, respectively, wholly and absolutely vested in the Company for the purposes of their undertaking, subject to the provisions of the Railways Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, with respect to mines lying under or near to the railway.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH rose to move after Clause 26, to insert the following clause:—

### AS TO VENTILATION OF RAILWAY.

With a view of ascertaining the best system of ventilation which can be applied to the portion of the Metropolitan Railway between King's Cross and Praed Street, and for securing that the same shall be adopted by the Company, the following provisions shall be observed and have effect:—

(1.) An arbitrator or arbitrators shall be appointed by the Board of Trade to consider and determine the best and most efficient means of ventilating the said portion of railway, taking into consideration the interests and convenience, as well of the travelling public as of the persons using or interested in the streets or lands over or adjacent to the said portion of railway

(2.) For and in connection with the purposes aforesaid, such arbitrator or arbitrators shall consider any proposals as to the system of ventilation to be adopted, and also as to the situation, elevation, size, and construction of any ventilating works to be executed which may be submitted to him or them by the Company, the London County Council, or the vestry of any parish in which any portion of the railway is situate.

(3.) The reference to the arbitrator or arbitrators appointed under this section shall be deemed to be a submission to arbitration under the Arbitration Act, 1889.

(4.) When and so soon as the arbitrator or arbitrators shall have issued their award, it shall be the duty of the Company to proceed to put the same into execution; provided that, if further statutory powers are required to enable them to give effect to the said award, the same shall be applied for by the Company, or, in default, by the London County Council.

(5.) If the Company fail to proceed with the necessary works in accordance with the award within three months after the date of the award, in the event of no further statutory powers being required, or within three months after such necessary statutory powers are obtained if such powers be required, the Company shall be subject to a penalty of fifty pounds a day for every day on which they are in default. Such penalty may be recovered by the London County Council in any Court of competent jurisdiction.

The noble Earl said that an effort had been made by the London County Council to compel the Company to accept arbitration on a subject familiar to all who travelled in London—the abominable ventilation of the Underground Railway. In 1890 the Metropolitan Railway Company sought power to buy lands fronting on the Marleybone and Euston Roads, and make holes through the roads for the ventilation of their line. Great opposition to this was raised by the local authorities, and it was insisted that the Company should be placed under certain conditions. The Company then introduced a Bill in the present Session to obtain power to acquire the houses in the Marylebone and Euston roads with their front gardens. This also was opposed by the local anthorities. This Bill was referred to a Committee of their Lordships' House, who, after hearing the case, said they were anxious that the best system of ventilation should be adopted that science and experience could suggest, and they were not satisfied that the system proposed by the promoters was absolutely the best. They, therefore, desired that the arbitration mentioned in Clause 19 should be enlarged in such a manner as to empower the arbitrator to determine the most efficient means of ventilating the portion of the Metropolitan Railway to which the Inquiry referred. A clause was proposed by the London County Council and the vestries to give effect to the decision of the Committee, and, on its being adopted by the Committee, the Company declined to proceed further with the part of the Bill relating to the aquisition of land, and thereby not only defeated the decision of the Committee, but deprived them of the powers without which they could do nothing in the way of ventilation. He moved the insertion of a clause to the effect that an arbitrator or arbitrators should be appointed by the Board of Trade to consider and determine the best means of ventilating the railway between King's Cross and Praed Street, taking into consideration the interests of the travelling public and those using or interested in the streets or lands adjacent. This was an unusual course to take, but those of their Lordships who had been nearly poisoned or asphyxiated on the Underground Railway would admit the urgency of the matter. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Earl of Denbigh.*

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (THE EARL OF DUDLEY) said he hoped his noble Friend would not press his Amendment, for, as a matter of fact, it had no connection with the provisions of the Bill as they were at present drawn. The facts were, that, when this Bill was originally sent to the Select Committee, the promoters sought powers to acquire land for the purpose of ventilating some portions of the Metropolitan Railway; the Committee not being satisfied that the method proposed by the promoters was the best one, inserted this Amendment, and the Company, rather than accept so drastic a proposal, dropped the part of the Bill to which it referred. This course was assented to by the Committee, who passed the rest of the Bill without further reference to the Amendment. Thus it was clear that, in the opinion of the Committee, the necessity for this Amendment rested not so much upon general grounds as upon the particular proposal made by the promoters to increase the existing methods of ventilation, as to the efficiency and convenience, of which considerable doubt had been expressed. It would have been quite possible for the Committee to have inserted the Amendment even after part of the Bill had been dropped. They did not do so, and he submitted, therefore, that his noble Friend was not entitled to say the promoters defeated the intention of the Committee, and to quote the opinion of the Committee upon the Bill as originally drawn under circumstances that were now entirely different. ["Hear, hear!"] But, apart altogether from the question of the relevancy of the Amendment, he objected to it also on totally different grounds. In the first place, he did not quite understand what his noble Friend meant by the word "arbitrators." The persons proposed to be appointed by the Board of Trade were not, as a matter of fact, arbitrators at all. Their duties were not those of arbitration, and their opinion was not an award. Surely it was of the very essence of arbitration that there should be parties to a dispute and an agreement to refer. But in this case there was no dispute; there were no parties, and there was no agreement to refer. In fact, the persons whom his noble Friend called arbitrators were commissioners, to whom was to be intrusted the duty of discovering the best mode of ventilating this portion of the Metropolitan Railway, and whose decision the Company were to be bound to accept, no matter whether that decision was practical or not, under a penalty of £50 a day, without right or power of any appeal whatever. He could not Conceive that any company would accept a proposal of that kind, so drastic in its character, and he did not believe for an instant that, if this Amendment were inserted, the promoters would continue with their Bill. The experience at the Board of Trade to a large extent bore out what the noble Earl had said with reference to the conditions of ventilation upon the Metropolitan Railway, and they were anxious to put the ventilation of that railway, if they could, on a more satisfactory footing than it was at the present time. He did not think the proposal of his noble Friend was the one best suited to carry out the objects he had in view. The insertion of the Amendment would defeat the ends which his noble Friend wished to attain, and he could not help thinking that a far better course would be to appoint either a Departmental Committee of the Board of Trade or a Select Committee of their Lordships' House, to whom the whole question of the ventilation of the Metropolitan Railway should be referred, and who would report as to the best means which should be adopted to put it on a more satisfactory footing. He hoped the Amendment would not be pressed.

THE EARL OF BELMORE observed that he was Chairman of a Select Committee of their Lordships' House which inquired into this matter some ten years ago. That Committee authorised certain ventilators to be made which the Metropolitan District Railway asked for. But after their Report objection was taken to the ventilators on the ground of unsightliness, and the result was that in the House of Commons a great deal of what had been sanctioned in the House of Lords was struck out of the Bill, and nothing had practically been done from that day to this. Anybody who travelled on the railway knew the state of things was no better now than it was ten years ago, and, whatever the fate of this Amendment, something ought to be done early next Session with a view to arriving at a settlement of the matter.

LORD MONKSWELL thought it might be well to adjourn this matter for a little while, and the noble Earl might be able to arrange some clause with the Board of Trade and the local authorities during the course of the present Session, the subject being of so much urgency as to suggest that course. He hoped the matter would not be hung up till another Session, but that the Board of Trade would at once do what they could with a view of suggesting some clause that might be accepted both by the local authorities and the railway company with regard to the ventilation.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The EARL of MORLEY) sympathised with the object of the Amendment, but was bound to say he entirely agreed with what had been said by his noble Friend who represented the Board of Trade. The Amendment was a very stringent one, and did not concern anything that was in the Bill now before the House. The Committee desired to impose upon the Company a clause with regard to ventilation. The Company refused to accept that clause, and the Committee allowed the Bill to proceed, omitting from it anything relating to the Metropolis. The Bill, therefore, came before the House as an Omnibus Bill, which had no connection whatever with any land or works in the Metropolis. He thought it would be a strong measure indeed, on the Third Reading of a Bill, to introduce into it an Amendment of this character, which had no connection with anything in the Bill itself. It would be hard upon the Company, and he was afraid would introduce a very inconvenient precedent into private Bill legislation. He therefore earnestly trusted the House would not adopt the Amendment of his noble Friend. With regard to what had been said by Lord Monkswell, it was somewhat late in the Session to postpone this Motion, and he thought the Board of Trade would have some difficulty in introducing into the Bill any Amendment dealing in a really efficient and thorough manner with the question they all desired to see dealt with. Having said this he would like to express his opinion strongly as to the ventilation of the Metropolitan Railway.

The views expressed by the Committee ought to be taken into consideration by the Company, and he would venture to urge upon the Company the importance of considering the whole question of the ventilation of their railway, and to warn them that there might be some difficulty in their obtaining Parliamentary assistance in the future unless they took the matter really and effectively into consideration, and acted upon it.

**Lord CONNEMARA**, as Chaiman of the Committee which considered the Bill, said the only part that was seriously opposed was the part relating to the ventilation of the Metropolitan Railway, and the Committee thought it would be fairer to all parties that the whole matter, being so technical, should be taken into consideration by an arbitrator who could decide as to the best mode of ventilation. The evidence given led the Committee to believe that the proposal before them for this object was not the best that could be conceived. The course the Committee suggested was, he considered, a very fair one, but the promoters were perfectly within their rights in declining to accept the Arbitration Clause, and as there were other useful clauses in the Bill, the Committee did not, because of this, care to refuse the whole Bill. He perfectly agreed with what the Earl of Dudley had stated on behalf of the Board of Trade, and he need not say he agreed entirely with the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees, as to the course which ought to be adopted. He thought it would be both inconvenient and inexpedient to adopt the Amendment which had been proposed by the noble Lord, which embodied a penal clause, throwing upon the promoters of the Bill the necessity of adopting some mode of ventilation the Board of Trade might suggest to them, or, in the alternative of their failing to do so, submit to a fine of £50 a day. It would be well to adopt the suggestion of the noble Earl below him, and leave the whole matter in the hands of the Board of Trade, when the whole question could be settled within a very few months.

**The Earl of DENBIGH** said that, in view of the expression of opinion that had fallen from the noble Lords, and in view of what had been stated by the noble Earl representing the Board of Trade, he would withdraw his Amendment. He could only say he was glad to have obtained an expression of opinion from some noble Lords as to the great necessity which existed for this ventilation. He could only hope that the noble Lord would do what he could to obtain a Departmental Committee of the Board of Trade to inquire into this matter, and to see that it was not allowed to rest longer than was absolutely necessary.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

## FINANCE BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read $1^a$, and to be printed.—[No. 228.]

## LONDON UNIVERSITY COMMISSION BILL [H.L.].

On the motion of The LORD PRESIDENT of the COUNCIL (the Duke of Devonshire), Bill read the Third time.

Question put, "That the Bill do pass."

Clause 1,—

### APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS.

(1.) There shall be a body of Commissioners styled the University of London Commissioners, and consisting in the first instance of the following persons, namely:—

* * * * *

(2.) If and whenever any vacancy occurs among the Commissioners, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty the Queen to appoint a person to fill the vacancy; but the name of every person so appointed shall be laid as soon as may be before both Houses of Parliament.

(3.) The Commissioners may, with the consent of the Treasury as to number, appoint or employ such persons as they may think necessary for the execution of their duties under this Act, and may remove any person so appointed or employed.

(4.) There shall be paid to any person so appointed or employed such remuneration as the Treasury may assign, and that remuneration and all expenses of the Commissioners incurred with the sanction of the Treasury in the execution of this Act shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE moved to insert, after the space left for the names of the Commissioners, the words, "and it shall be lawful for Her Majesty to appoint a secretary to the Commissioners."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3,—

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSIONERS.

(1.) The Commissioners shall make statutes and regulations for the University of London in general accordance with the scheme of the Report hereinbefore referred to, but subject to any modifications which may appear to them expedient after considering any representations made to them by the Senate or Convocation of the University of London, or by any other body or persons affected.

(2.) In framing such statutes and regulations, the Commissioners shall see that provision is made for securing adequately the interests of collegiate and non-collegiate students respectively.

(3.) Statutes and regulations made under this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything in any Act of Parliament, charter, deed, or other instrument.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON moved to insert at the end of the clause, after the word "instrument,"—

"Provided that no statutes or regulations shall inflict any disability on any college or institution on account of its religious character."

The reason for the Amendment was that the Bill was so drawn as practically to guide the Commissioners in framing their statutes to inflict a very serious disability upon King's College. This disability would put King's College at a great disadvantage as compared with the other institutions that would probably enter the University. King's College was entirely a Church College. They had power to provide a conscience clause; and that power had been exercised, and no student of the college was now required to attend any religious instruction or observance to which he conscientiously objected. The late Government, on the ground that King's College was a Church College, refused to them any share of the Parliamentary grant; but this Resolution of the Treasury had been rescinded, and they did now receive a share of the grant exactly on the same footing with all the other colleges of University rank in England. He thought that would be sufficient guarantee that when the Act forming this University was introduced the same policy would be pursued, and that what was done in regard to the grant would also be done in the Act that was to permanently establish the character of the new University. But it was not so. The Bill was so framed as to direct the Commissioners in all their proceedings to have regard to the Report of the Commissioners who inquired into the University system and the need of a University for London. In that Report the Commissioners were equally divided on the important point of whether or not King's College, being a Denominational College, should be put on the same level with the other colleges. The Report was agreed to, however, with a protest. He did not think it was right that King's College should be expected to enter into the new University on a different footing from the rest, and therefore he had proposed the Amendment in order to prevent any disability from being inflicted on the college on account of its religious character. He asked, in other words, that the same thing should be done in regard to this University instruction as was done at the present moment in regard to elementary education. The Imperial Government knew no distinction, in the matter of grant, between Denominational Elementary Schools and schools that were not Denominational; and he did not think it was logically consistent to deal with elementary education in one way and University education in another way. He did not think they ought to be content with anything less than the Amendment he had moved.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said he had perhaps better state more explicitly than the Right Reverend Prelate had done how this question had arisen. In the Report of Lord Cowper's Commission, it was stated that—

"For some time to come the most effectual means of promoting higher education in London will be by completing and supplementing the resources of existing institutions,"

subject to a proviso against the grant of money to any University fund for any purpose in respect of which any privilege was granted or any disability was imposed on account of religious disbelief. That, no doubt, was the recommendation of the Commission; but, unfortunately, and he thought it was very much to be regretted, the grounds of that recommendation were not in any part of the Report discussed. He did not think that, although the statutory Commissioners appointed under this Bill were directed in general terms to frame statutes and regulations for the new University, in general accordance with the recommendations of the Report, they would be in the least precluded from considering any case which might be laid before them by King's College, and from declining to impose upon them any such disability as was feared by the Right Rev. Prelate. He feared, however, that the Amendment which had been moved went somewhat too far for the necessities of the case, that it was couched in terms which were in direct opposition to the spirit of the University Test Act, and that it was absolutely certain that, whatever view the present majority of the House of Commons might take in this matter, if these words were inserted in the Bill in this shape they would raise so much controversy in another place that it would put an end to any possibility, which, perhaps, under any circumstances was a rather remote one, of the Bill being passed this year. Although he could not assent to the adoption of the words proposed by the Right Rev. Prelate, he believed there were other words which he did not think would give rise to any such opposition. The Right Rev. Prelate had referred to the protest which was signed by Bishop Barry, then, he believed, president of King's College, and others, objecting to this proviso. They said:—

> "We hold that a University should be at liberty to accept, if it sees fit, the administration of funds for every University purpose, whatever may be the conditions attached to such administration."

He should be perfectly prepared to accept in the form of an Amendment words actually embodying that opinion, and instead of the words which had been proposed, he should suggest that the Right rev. Prelate should accept words to this effect:—

> "Provided that no statute or regulation shall preclude the University from accepting, if it sees fit, the administration of funds for every University purpose, whatever may be the conditions attached to such administration."

*Duke of Devonshire.*

He believed those words would entirely meet every possible case that might arise. The University had not at present at its disposal any fund whatever to allot, and any funds it might hereafter be in a position to allot must either be provided by Parliament or from some private source. If it was desired that King's College should share in such assistance, the terms were granted which would admit of the University accepting it. If it was desired by the County Council, also, that the college should share in the advantages of that fund, it would be in their power to make provision to that effect. At the same time, there was no Statute that would enable the particular desire of a donor to be overridden by whomsoever the money was given. He believed the words he had suggested to be a sufficient indication of the intention of Parliament, and he hoped the Right Rev. Prelate would be disposed to adopt them, and not insist upon the adoption of words which were certain to provoke a great deal of contention in another place, and would render it impossible to pass the Bill during the present Session. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE BISHOP OF LONDON did not think that King's College ought to accept the words submitted by the Lord President, for this simple reason. Benefactions would no doubt be given to the University, but they would be given, as a general rule, without any distinct conditions at all, and simply to be used for such and such purposes, and without reference to anything in connection with the University which made a difference between King's College and any other college. And in all those cases he thought it would be possible, and from the form in which the Act was drawn he thought it would be probable, that the statutes and regulations would exclude King's College. He could not accept the suggestion of the noble Duke. The noble Duke had referred to the fate of the Bill in another place. He was quite sure that the friends of King's College in the House of Commons would not consent without a struggle to allow the college in this matter to run the risk of being very seriously crippled in the conditions between one college and another. He could not accept the suggestion of the noble Duke.

LORD HERSCHELL said the Right Rev. Prelate might be right in predicting what would be the result of the action taken by his Friends in another place, but he did not think he should be far wrong in predicting that the provision which he sought to insert would never be inserted in any such Bill. The right rev. Prelate had said something about the college being a Church of England College. Nobody proposed to prevent that; nobody proposed to interfere with the governing body of the college in that regard. No one said that it should not be free to appoint Professors belonging to the Church of England. The condition had been this, that King's College insisted upon having its hands tied, so that if a vacancy in a Professorship occurred and the candidates presented themselves, the Governors might appoint the inferior man simply because he was a member of the Church of England. That was the point that arose in this case. The question was not one of hardship to the college, for nobody proposed to interfere with its government; but it was whether the University of London, which had always been an undenominational institution without any test, and which was created as such, was now to foster a test which Parliament had deliberately abolished in the case of the older Universities. Tests existed in them. They were once, in the same sense, Church of England Colleges, but Parliament swept away the tests, and, if he was not mistaken, the Right Rev. Prelate, in those years, was not altogether indisposed to the change.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON: I supported it, and would again.

LORD HERSCHELL said that might be so, but when the matter came to affect this particular college, of which he was President, then he sought to lay it down that an altogether different practice must prevail—that a test of a most rigid and undesirable character must continue. Supposing the test was swept away, in this case it would not prevent the governing body giving preference to Church of England Professors; but the Right Rev. Prelate asked that the University of London should in this way be forced to endow an educational institution which it believed to be a bad one, because it deliberately shut out the best men from teaching botany, chemistry, mathematics, electricity, and other sciences, if they were unable to declare that they were members of the Church of England. For instance, a Presbyterian of the very highest capacity as a scientific man must be put aside in favour of one of far inferior capacity and reputation, because the former did not belong to the Church of England; and that was the system which the Right Rev. Prelate wished to connect with the University of London—a system which was entirely antagonistic to that institution. The test had been proved absolutely worthless, even in the interests of the Church itself. He ventured to say that they would find as active, vigorous, sincere, devout Churchmen in the older Universities without this test, as were to be found in King's College with it—that they would find men as fit to take holy orders, and as capable of doing duty as parish priests, aye, and even as Bishops, coming from the older Universities as from King's College and London University. He repeated that in this Bill it was not proposed to touch the College, which might have all its endowments to itself, and the full benefit of its connection with the University of London. But what was objected to was the Bishop's desire that the University should be fettered, and that it should be compelled to give to King's College whatever it gave to other colleges. King's College had its friends and representatives on the Cowper Commission, but the Commissioners made no such proposal as that now put forward by the right rev. Prelate. Nay, they dissented from it, and embodied their dissent in a memorandum. The noble Duke had offered to insert in the Bill, as a direction, exactly that for which Bishop Barry and the other dissentients asked, but that would not satisfy the Right Rev. Prelate. Whoever had asked for such a proposal before the Right Rev. Prelate that day? Something might have been said for the view of the Right Rev. Prelate if he had contended that the dissentient report of the Commissioners was entitled to consideration, and that the report of the majority ought not to be treated as conclusive. The noble Duke appeared to accept the very terms of the dissentient Commissioners, and he for one should have no objection to that. He did not believe that it would do any harm to permit the University to accept endowments, although they might be extended to a denominational institution, as the noble Duke had said, if the money given was public money. Those who gave, would determine its destination; and in the same way, if it was private money, the donor would determine its destination. But the Right Rev. Prelate was not satisfied unless the objectionable test referred to was continued, and he could not help thinking that the Right Rev. Prelate was asking for that which would not benefit King's College either educationally or in public estimation.

The BISHOP of SALISBURY said the remarks of the noble and learned Lord might, from his point of view, be an argument against admitting King's College at all into the federated scheme. That was one reason why it took so long for the scheme to make any headway. But, if King's College was to be admitted, surely it ought to be on the terms on which it rested and on which it had hitherto worked, and worked with very great efficiency and benefit to the country. He confessed he was very much in favour of the Bishop of London's Amendment.

*Lord PLAYFAIR said that when the Commission prepared the scheme it included King's College with all the institutions of collegiate rank that it was desirable to place under such scheme upon terms of perfect equality. The present colleges were not nearly sufficiently well equipped either as to the number of professorships in science or as to the teaching facilities, such as laboratories and other methods which modern science required. The University, therefore, would try to obtain funds either from Parliament or private sources, in order to add to the number of professorships. They wanted to treat King's College exactly as other colleges would be treated. They desired to obtain the most distinguished people as University professors who might lecture either at King's College, University College, the College of Science, or anywhere else, but they could not have any such condition as that they should be a member of the Church of England, or Jews, or Roman Catholics. It was felt the University must be at perfect liberty, without reference to any religious faith, to obtain the most eminent and the most skilled professors of the different sciences. If the University could not send those distinguished professors into King's College to instruct its pupils, it was quite evident King's College would be at a very great disadvantage.

Amendment negatived.

The BISHOP of LONDON said he had not divided the House because he did not want to have the whole weight of the Government against him. It would not be difficult, he was sure, to show that the arguments of Lord Herschell did not really touch the point and that the speech of Lord Playfair did not cover the ground. [*A laugh.*] He must be content to endeavour to secure justice in the Lower House.

The DUKE of DEVONSHIRE asked whether he could now move the words which he proposed to substitute for the Right Rev. Prelate's?

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that a substantive Amendment was never allowed unless notice had been given.

The DUKE of DEVONSHIRE said that if the Amendment which he suggested would give any satisfaction to the Right Rev. Prelate, he would give notice of it for to-morrow.

The BISHOP of LONDON could not say now whether he could accept the Amendment; it did not seem sufficient.

The ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY hoped the noble Duke would put the Amendment down for to-morrow.

Bill to further be proceeded with to-morrow.

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## LABOURERS' (IRELAND) BILL.

The EARL of RANFURLY moved, "That this Bill be now read a Second time." He said the Measure had passed through the other House unopposed, and its chief objects were to prevent the delay which had taken place under the Act of 1883 and to improve the machinery of former Acts. Before going through the various clauses as briefly as he could, he would like to say that owing to a printer's error the Memorandum of the Bill was incorrect. A clause that was struck out was mentioned in the Memorandum, and a clause which appeared in the Bill—he referred to Clause 6—was not mentioned at all, and all the clauses after Clause 5 were wrongly numbered. [*A laugh.*] The clauses which would shorten the length of time began with Sub-clause 1 of Clause 1. That shortened the public notice which it was necessary for the sanitary authority to give of the day of their meeting from 14 days to seven. Sub-clause 2 allowed sanitary authorities to discuss at subsequent meetings a scheme though no notice be given, but it obliged them to give three days' notice of the meeting at which they came to their decision. Sub-clause 4 authorised notice to be served on the landowner at some time or another after the advertisement was inserted in the papers, and it further reduced the number of insertions of the advertisement from three to two consecutive weeks. Sub-clause 5 permitted notice to be served on owners by registered letters. Clause 2 enabled the sanitary authority, if petition was lodged against part of a Provisional Order, to divide the Order into two parts, and to proceed at once with the unopposed part. It was worthy of note that in the past five years only 66 out of 134 Orders had been opposed, and out of 166 cases, in only four was the whole of the Order opposed. Much delay, however, was caused in the erection of a large number of cottages. Clause 4 enabled the sanitary authority to enter into possession of the land at once on the confirmation of the Order, the landlord being fully protected as regarded either the rent or the purchase money as the case might be. The other clauses were intended to simplify the procedure. Thus, Sub-clause 3 of Clause 1 provided for a representation or certificate by the sanitary authority being signed at any stage of the proceedings. Sub-clause 6 protected the owners by providing that seven days' notice should be given them of any Local Government Board Inquiry, whereas under the existing law no notice was required. Clause 3 substituted the machinery of the second schedule of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890 for the provisions of the Lands Clauses Act, so far as the compulsory purchase of land was concerned. The former Act was far more suited for small lots of land than the latter Act. Clause 5 provided that—

> "The tenancies created by lettings under the Labourers Acts shall be deemed cottier tenancies, notwithstanding that the allotment exceeds half an acre and by the terms of the letting the tenant is bound to keep the windows of the cottage and the fences of the allotment in repair."

Clause 6 provided that—

> "The inspector who holds the Inquiry and who makes the complaint, and who has authority given him to exercise the powers of the sanitary authority, need not be the same inspector,"

and Clause 7 was as follows :—

> "The object of this clause is to continue the Labourers Acts for five years. These Acts are at present temporary, subject to continuance by the Annual Expiring Laws Continuance Acts."

He trusted that they would give this Measure a Second Reading. He could not see that there was anything contentious in the Bill now before them. The objection which he fancied some noble Lords raised was not to what was in the Bill but to what was not in the Bill. Their Lordships must be well aware that at that stage of the Session in the other House it was not easy to pass an opposed Measure. This Bill was brought forward as an unopposed Bill, and it was impossible to accept any Amendment, which would turn it into an opposed Measure. He begged to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

Lord SUDELEY moved to leave out the word "now," and to insert at the end of the Motion the words "this day three months." He had no objection whatever to the principle of the Bill, knowing that anything that would shorten and cheapen procedure must be an advantage. The Bill came to them under the following circumstances. When first brought in by Mr. Balfour it contained a clause which was now omitted and the purport of which was explained in a Memorandum. The Bill in its subsequent course was referred to the Grand Committee on Law, and when in that stage, at the instance of Mr. Dillon and Mr. Redmond, the clause was withdrawn by Mr. Balfour, but he did so on the understanding that he should bring it in next year as a Bill itself. Now they had already three Bills for Labourers' Dwellings in Ireland—in 1860, 1883, and 1889, and with this Bill and the Bill of next year they would have five Bills. As no inconvenience would be caused by putting off this Bill, he thought it would be more advantageous to do so, and let the Bill of next year deal with the clause omitted and consolidate the other Bills.

VISCOUNT DE VESCI hoped his noble Friend would not press this Motion. He claimed to have some knowledge of the subject, and as to the objection that the Bill would be availed of to put in evicted tenants, he saw no objection to that if they complied with the principal condition of the Act of 1883—namely, that they were *boná fide* agricultural labourers. He could not agree that the Bill could be looked upon as a contentious Bill.

THE EARL OF COURTOWN said the Bill contained some useful provisions, and he hoped Her Majesty's Government would give favourable consideration to Amendments which might be proposed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE) hoped his hon. Friend would not press his Motion to a Division. There was no doubt that these Acts had been occasionally abused, and undoubtedly the Return showed that in not a large number of cases but in a certain number of cases cottages had been improperly let to persons who should not have been allowed to occupy them. The proportion under the Act of 1888 was not large, and it had not increased since that time. Out of 11,000 or 12,000, only a small number had been let either to evicted tenants or to persons for whom they were not intended. The object of the Bill was to shorten and amend procedure under the existing Act, but it did not do away with any of the existing precautions, nor did it deprive the Privy Council of the power of checking abuses under the Act. With regard to the 5th Clause, it was the only contentious one in the Bill, and owing to the limited time at their disposal, if they had persisted in it there would be no prospect of passing the Bill into law. That was

a point which no doubt could be considered at a future stage of the Bill.

*THE EARL OF MAYO said the noble Marquess admitted that some cottages had been improperly let, and he wished to prevent that. He had no objection to the evicted tenants as such, but the Guardians in many parts of Ireland had a way of doing their business which was to stick in these men to make themselves popular. In 1883 a Bill was passed for the labourers, and the Act had been quoted all over the world as showing that the Irish labourer was well off, because the State could provide him with a cottage and a certain amount of land. Now a Bill enlarging that was brought in, and they were asked to forego opposition when the whole principle of the Act of 1883 was done away with—namely, that labourers only should be admitted to these cottages. If Clause 5 were omitted, Tom, Dick, and Harry might have these cottages. If the evicted tenant were admitted, why not the landlord, ruined by successive legislation and bad times? ["Hear, hear!"] Many Boards of Guardians would sympathise with them. ["Hear, hear!"] He would press upon the noble Lord in Committee that they should put forth all their power to insist upon Clause 5 being reinserted, else the Act of 1883 would be chucked to the winds.

LORD SUDELEY asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF RANFURLY said there was nothing in the Measure that dispensed with the machinery for labourers being admitted to these cottages, and there was machinery for keeping it to labourers only. The machinery which at present existed was difficult to work, and Clause 5 was intended to improve it. There was no doubt that a small number of other people had been admitted by the Boards of Guardians into these cottages, but the Local Government Board could make the Boards of Guardians turn out those who were not *boná fide* agricultural labourers.

LORD CASTLETOWN asked what were the provisions by which the Local Government Board could take action in this matter?

THE EARL OF **RANFURLY** said he was not able to state them at the moment, but he would be happy to give the noble Lord the information later.

Bill read a Second time, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

### WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS [H.L].

Report of Amendments (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Tuesday next.

### COAL MINES REGULATION ACT (1887) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

LORD **BELPER** said this Bill was one which had become not only desirable, but really necessary, owing to the increased light which had of late years been thrown upon the causes of accidents in mines. The object of the Bill was to decrease, as far as possible, these accidents and diminish the deplorable loss of life. The Bill was read in the House of Commons, not only without a Division, but he might say with the very general consent of all parties, and of those who were conversant with the question. The provisions of the Bill were as follows: There were powers given to the Secretary of State to make regulations with regard to various matters for the purpose of diminishing the chance of these explosions. The matters included the following:—The description of lamps used in a mine, and the manner in which they might be used; the sorts of explosives that were to be used in mines, how they were to be stored, and the manner in which the shots were to be fired; the number of persons who were to be permitted to remain in a mine when the shots were being fired, and also as to the damping or watering of mines which were of a dusty character and in which it was desirable to do so. An objection had been raised that the Secretary of State had already power to make regulations such as these, but to do so some of the regulations in the former Act of 1887 would have to be modified if not repealed, and it was, therefore, thought desirable to give the power directly by this Bill. Besides this there were important powers with regard to dealing with mines which were abandoned, and in that case this Bill made more stringent regulations than the Act of 1887. There was also an extension of the duties of inspection, and there was a very important clause which gave an absolute power, apart from any appeal, for a Secretary of State, where he considered that certain explosives were or might be of a dangerous character, to prohibit the use of those explosives, or in any class of mines in which he thought it desirable to do so. He felt sure that, in view of the urgency which existed for some such Measure, their Lordships would not hesitate to give it a Second Reading. It was practically an agreed Bill, and was heartily supported by both the employers of labour and those who represented the miners, and he hoped they would pass it into law without making any substantial alterations in it. He begged to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

Read $2^a$ (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

Read $3^a$ (according to Order), and passed.

### COLLECTING SOCIETIES BILL.

Read $3^a$ (according to Order), and passed.

### POST OFFICE CONSOLIDATION BILL.

LORD **THRING** asked Her Majesty's Government whether it was the fact that the Post Office Consolidation Bill, which had passed through a Joint Committee of both Houses, had been withdrawn, and what was the reason for throwing away the labours of that Committee on a wholly uncontentious Bill?

THE EARL OF **SELBORNE** said he had been asked by the Postmaster General (the Duke of Norfolk), to express his regret at his unavoidable absence that day. There were several Amendments on the Paper to this Bill in the House of Commons which would have led to considerable discussion, and at this period of the Session it would have been impossible to pass a Bill of 93 clauses if any Members intended, as some did, to contest its passage at every stage.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (LORD HALSBURY) said this was a matter of much greater importance than it seemed at first sight to be. Their Lordships were probably aware that for a considerable time there had been an effort to consolidate a great variety of the Statutes. Statutes had sometimes been passed on the same subject at an interval of a century, and those who wished to know what the law on a particular subject was had to search through the Statute Book. A very learned body of persons had been engaged in putting the Statutes together and harmonising them so that it might be possible for people to know what was the whole of the Statute law with reference to the subject with which they were dealing. He regretted very much the case of the Bill which the noble Lord had referred to; there were thousands of postmasters in this country, and it was most unfortunate that they should not have at hand the Statutes applicable to their particular functions. But a matter of far greater importance was raised than the case of a particular Bill, because it appeared to him that this was the commencement of a practice which would render anything like consolidation of the Statutes absolutely impossible. The learned persons to whom he had referred were Government draftsmen, who, as they were aware, did their work admirably, and some years ago it was the practice to take these Consolidation Bills from them and to pass them through the House with the simple statement that they were Consolidation Bills. The question, however, was raised whether by inadvertence any part of the law might thus be altered without the assent of Parliament, and as a remedy against that possible contingency an arrangement was made by the First Lord of the Treasury—his late lamented Friend Mr. W. H. Smith—and by himself that there should be a Joint Committee of both Houses on which there should be an equal number of Peers and Members of the House of Commons, and that they should have the supervision of the work done by the Treasury draftsmen. That system had gone on for a considerable time, and perhaps their Lordships would allow him to tell them what had happened. It was the duty of the draftsman — which was attended to with admirable efficiency—not to attempt to alter the law, but to photograph it as it was and bring it as far as possible into the language of the present day. The necessity for that was apparent when they considered they were putting together statutes which might have been passed at an interval of a century. The business was most carefully done in the first instance. Then came the work of the Committee. The draftsman attended with the Bills that had been consolidated, and the Committee examined, word by word and line by line, everything that had been done in the way of alteration. The alteration was chiefly of phraseology. In the particular case now under discussion he had had considerable difficulty in altering the language with reference to postal packets, because a statute that was appropriate in the days of the mail coach was not so in the time of the postal packet. He gave that as an example. When an alteration of the law seemed to be involved, a Committee, composed of an equal number of Peers and Members of the House of Commons, considered whether an alteration of the law was desirable. He did not believe a system could be devised which was more careful in theory or practice. An enormous amount of trouble had been taken by the draftsman in the first instance, and the Joint Committee of both Houses in going through this statute of 93 clauses. It was not a very lively or exciting occupation to go through ancient statutes and boil them down into a modern statute, and it would not be possible to get Members of the House of Commons or of their Lordships' House to go through this laborious and careful work if it was afterwards to be cast aside at the instance of any one Member who thought he would take an opportunity to amend the law where he thought it defective. If that system were pursued it would be absolutely impossible to pursue this most useful work. It was not respectful to the Members of either House who had taken part in this laborious work. Lord Thring, who was familiar with the whole system of Parliamentary drafting, rendered invaluable service in seeing that the law was not altered ; also the Chairman of Committees, and his noble and learned Friend Lord Herschell. Whether any other system of doing this work could be contrived, or whether the gentleman (who was not one of the six Members who gave their assistance) could do it better or not, the whole system must break down if Amendments were to be made on Bills of this kind, and it was hopeless to attempt anything like consolidation. This Bill of 93 clauses was not to become law because of this objection. It only showed what mischief might be done. If the practice was not suppressed by the action of the House and in another place, he for one would hesitate to ask his noble Friends to waste their time in work which might be rendered perfectly useless. He regretted that Mr. George Howell, who was formerly a Member of the House of Commons, was not a Member now, for he was most earnest and useful in this work. He ought also to say that the Irish Members who had attended had rendered useful assistance. So it was not a question of any political Party or any side of the House, but whether it should be in the power of some one person to set at nought all the efforts made in the useful work of legal consolidation. The House of Commons should take means to prevent so gross an abuse.

Lord HERSCHELL said he desired to say a few words in hearty concurrence of what the Lord Chancellor had said. He himself did not think, whoever had stopped this Bill or been the means of its being abandoned from a desire to bring about certain alterations in the law, could have realised how much valuable work he had been the means of throwing away, or how much injury was done without any compensating advantage. The consolidation of the statute law had been of the highest value. The public had learned to appreciate it and feel its value. All consolidation was absolutely and utterly impossible if they attempted to amend the law when a Consolidation Bill was passing through Parliament. Consolidation was only possible on the understanding and condition that when anyone wanted to amend the law it should be first consolidated that they might know what it was. That seemed not only desirable, but the common-sense and reasonable course, because they were in a much better position to make an Amendment of the law when it had been clearly and accurately defined by being brought together in a single statute. Consolidation Bills could never be passed unless that understanding was carried out, and when a Joint Committee of the two Houses had expended a great deal of time and labour over what was not particularly exhilarating, that of consolidating the statute law, it was hard that they should find their time and labour thrown away because some individual (or more than one) thought there was something in the law that needed alteration. To his mind, if such a practice was to continue, it suggested the serious question whether there ought not to be some provision against it, and whether it ought not to be put out of the power of individual Members —while it was open to them to suggest that the law was not properly represented in the Consolidation Bill in the form in which it was—to attempt on the Consolidation Bill to procure an Amendment of the law. Unless there was either a kind of honourable understanding that Consolidation Bills should be allowed to pass without any attempt to make a substantive Amendment of the law, or means were taken to prevent the labours of the Committee—such as sat on this Bill—being thrown away, it was perfectly certain that Members of this and the other House, whose time was often of great value, would not be induced, and could not be expected, to allow their time to be wasted and their efforts frustrated when they exerted themselves to bring the law on a particular subject into a satisfactory state.

Lord THRING said he had been so long interested in the statute law that he might be allowed to add a few words to those of his noble and learned Friends. If this Bill was to be abandoned in the way it had been it would put an end, absolutely, to all improvement in the statute law. It was a point of the greatest possible importance. The only mode of bringing English statute law, good as it was in substance, bad as it was in form, into available form in some degree resembling the Codes of the Continent, was the system of consolidating Bills without Amendment. The effect of this consolidation was to bring together numerous statutes, sometimes the contents of 50 or 60, in an intelligible form. That form was, as far as it could be, a mere photograph, as the Lord Chancellor had said, of the existing law, and it would be fair and reasonable for any Member in either House to object to the Bill on the ground that it was not a proper photograph. But if the fad of some Member who wished to alter the law as to the parcels post or something else was to be permitted, no Bill could be passed at all. When he first served on the Committee, it was agreed by the Lord Chancellor and everyone connected with it that, by passive agreement between the two Houses, no Amendment should be moved in a Bill except Amendments showing the Bill had not been fairly and honestly done. If the Government did not put their foot down in the House of Commons and say they would bring their majority to bear, and declare that no Amendments should be moved on a Bill except Amendments impugning the accuracy of the consolidation, the whole system would fall to the ground. With regard to the labour bestowed on the Bill, it would not become him to plead any vexation at his labour being thrown aside. It was not that. He had for 25 years been engaged in preparing Acts of Parliament, and, in his opinion, it was a miserable thing that the fad of one or two Members should not be crushed by the Government, but that they should be allowed to put an end to the only system of codification that could improve the law of England.

## GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND.

THE EARL OF BELMORE rose to move—

> "That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty that copies or extracts of all correspondence relating to the proposed changes in the government of Norfolk Island be laid before the House when completed."

The noble Earl said he understood there was no objection in principle to what he asked for. When he last brought the matter forward he pointed out that, when the constitution of the island was established 40 years ago, it was determined that the island should be self-governing and administereed upon temperance principles. For four years he was Governor of the island, so he took great interest in it. From information he had received from the noble Earl the Under Secretary for the Colonies, he was convinced that some change was necessary. The administration of justice did not exist, and what went on was a farce. Some reform was necessary, and in carrying this out he hoped no more changes would be made than were really needful.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE said it was true that the question of the future administration of Norfolk Island was now under consideration. Although very small, it was a very interesting little territory, and great care would be taken to do nothing, if possible, against the reasonable wishes of the inhabitants. It was necessary not only to look back upon the past history of the administration of the island and to read the Dispatches of past Governors—including one written by the noble Earl himself some 25 years ago—but to consider also the position of the Australasian colonies in connection with this small community. The views of these colonies were not unanimous on the subject, and a correspondence had necessarily ensued. That correspondence was not completed, but when it was he would undertake to lay all the Papers on the Table of the House. If the noble Earl would be satisfied with that assurance, perhaps he would not press this particular Motion.

THE EARL OF BELMORE had no objection to this proposal, as it was immaterial to him in what shape the information was presented. He would withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

## CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) BILL.

To be read 2ª To-morrow.—*(The Earl of Dudley.)*

House adjourned at Twenty minutes past Six o'clock, till To-morrow, Two o'clock.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Thursday, 30th July 1896.*

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## CIVIL SERVICE CERTIFICATES.

Return [presented 28th April] to be printed.—[No. 320.]

## DISTRESS FROM WANT OF EMPLOYMENT.

Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence, brought up and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.—[No. 321.]

## SUPERANNUATION.

Copy ordered, "of Treasury Minute, dated 23rd day of July 1896, granting a retiring allowance to Mr. Alfred Pike, Superintendent of County Courts, Treasury."—*(Mr. Hanbury.)*

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.—[No. 322.]

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## PUBLIC WORKS LOANS [REMISSION.]

Committee to consider of authorising the remission of a debt due to the Public Works Loan Commissioners, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to grant moneys for the purpose of certain Local Loans, and for other purposes relating to Local Loans (Queen's Recommendation signified), To-morrow.—*(Sir John Gorst.)*

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# *QUESTIONS.*

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## FRANCO-CONGOLESE AGREEMENT.

*Sir **CHARLES DILKE** (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether there could be laid before Parliament the Agreement of the 14th August last between France and the Congo State, under which M. Listard, as Commissary of the Republic, is now organising the government of territories lying to the west of the district leased by Great Britain to the Sovereign of the Congo State and retained by him, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the district also leased by Great Britain to him at the same time, and renounced by him in an agreement with France?

The **UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS** (Mr. George Curzon, Lancashire, Southport): The Agreement referred to is dated August 16, 1894, not 1895, as the Question implies. It is to found on page 1002, Volume II., of "The Map of Africa by Treaty," of which there is a copy in the House of Commons Library.

## HYDE PARK (ROTTEN ROW).

Mr. **GIBSON BOWLES** (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether, with a view to afford more room to riders of horses, he will consider what steps could be taken to restore to them the privilege which some years ago they possessed of riding on a prolongation of Rotten Row to the westward; and, whether he would consider if he could make arrangements whereby the ride in Rotten Row might be prolonged into and round Kensington Gardens?

Colonel **WYNDHAM MURRAY** (Bath): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether, in view of the difficulty experienced by pedestrians in crossing Rotten Row in the season, owing to its crowded state by riders, he will consider the possibility of extending the ride into Kensington Gardens, in order to relieve the Row and so give more accommodation to foot passengers?

The **FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS** (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): I have carefully considered the suggestions contained in the Questions of my hon. Friends the Members for Lynn Regis and Bath. The proposal, besides involving a very large expenditure, would not, I think, command such general approval as would warrant interference with the present uses of Kensington Gardens. I regret, therefore, that I cannot entertain the suggestions.

## MADRAS INFANTRY REGIMENTS.

**Sir SEYMOUR KING** (Hull, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the under officering of Madras infantry regiments, and whether he is aware that it has gone to such an extent that lately, for a brigade parade, the commanding officer had only available three officers for two regiments; whether he will cause inquiries to be made into the cause of the constant depletion of Madras regiments by transfer of officers, and its effects on the efficiency and morale of the corps, and the best way of providing a remedy; and, whether any representations have been made to the Indian Government by commanding officers on this subject; and what, if any, explanations have been offered or steps taken in the matter?

**The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA** (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): I have heard nothing of the statements to which my hon. Friend's Question relates, but I will inquire of the Government of India.

## EAST LONDON WATER COMPANY.

**Mr. W. R. BOUSFIELD** (Hackney, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board—(1) whether he can state the hours of the day during and between which the restricted supply now given by the East London Water Company is furnished in the various portions of the district supplied by the Company; (2) whether he is aware that during the limited time for which such restricted supply is furnished the pressure of the water is so small that a sufficient supply for sanitary purposes cannot be obtained; (3) whether he is aware that the cisterns and other fittings in the district of the Company are only adapted to a constant supply, and that the storage capacity of the cisterns is so small that practically no supply of water is available for sanitary purposes during a large part of the time for which the water is turned off; and (4) whether, having regard to the occurrence of these insanitary conditions due to deficient water supply in two successive years, the Local Government Board is prepared to recommend any means for preventing the recurrence of such conditions?

**The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD** (Mr. Henry Chaplin, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I am informed by the East London Company that the hours of turning on the water vary in the different streets throughout the district, but that in each street the water is supplied at the same time from day to day. The general rule is that the water is turned on as nearly as possible for three hours in the morning and again for three hours later in the day. In some cases there are additional times of service. With respect to the second question, it is stated by the Company that the pressure at the works is higher than it has ever been before, and that the automatic diagrams of pressure traced at various points show a good and sufficient force. Further, that if any deficient pressure exists it can only occur where there is great waste in any particular street, and this must be due to the fact that all the taps, or the majority of them are left running at one time. No complaints, it is stated, have been made to the Company in this matter. With respect to the third question, a very large proportion of the dwellings in the district supplied by the Company have no proper storage cisterns, and where there are no such cisterns it is the case that there is no supply of water available for sanitary purposes during a large portion of the time when the water is turned off except waste water and such supply as may be provided by storage. The best recommendation I think that I can make to prevent a recurrence of this calamity is the speedy completion of the additional works which were contemplated by the Company in 1893, but which were arrested at that time by the action of Parliament.

**Mr. HARRY SAMUEL** (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether he is aware that the customers of the East London Water Company who pay for the water they consume, as registered by meter, have had and still have an abundant supply whereas those who pay by rate and it impossible to obtain sufficient for ordinary domestic purposes; and whether he can take any steps in the matter?

MR. CHAPLIN: I am informed by the East London Water Works Company that there is no foundation for the suggestion in the Question of my hon. Friend. The Company state that the meter supplies from the "service mains" are treated precisely in the same way as the supply upon fixed rates, and are subject to the same restrictions as to hours of supply. Both meter services and any others on the leading or fire mains, which are constantly charged, have necessarily an uninterrupted service.

MR. E. H. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether he is aware that there is no improvement in the supply of water to the inhabitants of East London by the East London Water Company, that illness is becoming rife in the poorer districts, and that proper flushing of the sewers is urgently needed; and, whether he can state why the East London Company does not obtain a supply of water from the New River Company?

MR. CHAPLIN: In reply to a telegram addressed to the Company after seeing the hon. Member's Question this morning, I am informed that no restrictions have been placed upon the vestries as regards the supply of water for the flushing of the sewers, that as regards the New River no answer has yet been received to the second application of the East London Company, and that they have no knowledge of any increased sickness due to the restricted supply of water. I may add that I have no information to that effect either.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) asked whether it was not a fact that the company were prepared to fix additional standpipes whenever and wherever required by the local authorities?

MR. CHAPLIN: The company have signified their perfect readiness to do so wherever required.

## NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (AMMUNITION).

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the attention of Lord Lansdowne and the Commander-in-Chief has been directed to the complaints made of the ammunition supplied to the National Rifle Association at Bisley, and what steps have been taken to ascertain if they are well founded, and, in such case, on what officer or officers the responsibility rests to prevent like defective cartridges being sent to Her Majesty's Forces abroad for use against the Queen's enemies?

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): This Question has already been brought before us. Reports of defective ammunition at Bisley have been received, and samples are now being examined. The matter will be fully investigated.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Will a Court of Inquiry be appointed?

*MR. BRODRICK: I think not. It is the business of the Inspector General of Ordnance to investigate all questions connected with ammunition, and this matter will come before him.

## ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.) I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether the seven sergeants and three acting sergeants of constabulary, who in 1892 were drafted into the Belfast force, have been since promoted to be sergeants and attached permanently to the strength of the city force, although the Inspector General assured the City Commissioner that the appointment of those 10 sergeants would in no way interfere with the ordinary promotion of senior men in Belfast; (2) where are those ten sergeants now doing duty; and (3), has the Inspector General invited constables to volunteer from the Belfast force for service in county Mayo, promising that the promotion of those who volunteered would be favourably considered?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): In April, 1893, not 1892, 50 men were drafted into Belfast as a reserve force, and of these seven were sergeants and three acting sergeants. Two of the acting sergeants were subsequently withdrawn and replaced by constables. In May 1894, the free or permanent force of the city was increased by 100 men, and the reserve force of 50 men was absorbed into the permanent force. Consequent on this increase the aggregate strength of sergeants and acting sergeants was raised by nine, and a number of promotions were made accordingly, the men promoted being all senior constables with lengthened previous service in Belfast, and not men only recently drafted into Belfast. The men referred to in the second paragraph are still serving in Belfast with the exception of the two acting sergeants who, I have stated, were withdrawn. Application having been made to the Inspector General for some senior constables for service in Mayo, he offered to transfer any good senior men of that rank who wished for the change, but only one constable of the Belfast force has volunteered in response to the offer.

### FIRE IN PARCEL POST VAN.

**Mr. J. YOUNG** (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, with reference to the fire which took place near Mount Pleasant Station in the parcel post van of the 7.30 p.m. mail train from Dublin to Belfast about a month ago, whether he is aware that some of the young men who assisted in saving mails were badly burned; and, whether, considering the skill, fearlessness, and activity shown by the engine driver and these young men, to whose efforts the safety of the mails on that occasion was due, he will, in the interest of the public service, consider the desirability of making some compensation to them?

**The SECRETARY to the TREASURY** (Mr. R. W. Hanbury, Preston): The Postmaster General is not aware that any person who assisted in saving the mails on this occasion was himself burned, but the railway company have represented that the clothes of one of the men were damaged. There is no reason to think that the Post Office is in any way responsible for the fire, but the Postmaster General is considering whether he should not make some gratuity to the persons who assisted in saving the mails.

### PATTERN POST.

**Mr. HENNIKER HEATON** (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that large numbers of poor persons, such as cultivators of gardens and allotments, having fruit, dairy produce, or other articles to dispose of, are debarred from using the pattern or sample post because they do not come within the definition of traders; and, whether he will consider the expediency of so amending the regulations on the subject, that the benefit of the pattern or sample post may be extended to such persons?

**Mr. HANBURY**: The Postmaster General is not aware that the persons referred to by the hon. Member are prevented on the ground of not being traders from using the pattern or sample post. As a matter of fact the sample post is open to persons engaged in any kind of business, whether agricultural or commercial, but being a sample post it is, of course, intended solely for *bonâ fide* patterns and samples, and cannot by the nature of the case be used for the execution of orders, which is the apparent object of the Question. The limit of weight is 8 ozs., which does not admit of much agricultural produce being sent. The Postmaster General is not prepared to modify the regulations on the subject of the sample post.

### ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL, PONDER'S END.

**Mr. J. H. YOXALL** (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education, with regard to the dismissal of the mistress of the Ponder's End St. Matthew's School, (1) if, in view of the report of Her Majesty's Inspector that alterations in the registers had he considered been made to justify a statement against the mistress, he proposes to take steps to discover the real offender; and (2) if he can see his way to do anything to prevent the dismissal of the mistress in question, and thus to vindicate her character against an allegation of fraudulent registration which, in the words of Her Majesty's Inspector's Report, cannot be sustained against her?

**The VICE PRESIDENT of the COUNCIL** (Sir John Gorst, Cambridge University): On further examination of the register, the Inspector has withdrawn the statement referred to in the first paragraph of the Question. He has been directed to forward the registers to the Education Department, where they will be inspected. A further Report will be sent to the Managers after the inspection of the registers. The Committee of Council have no power to prevent the dismissal of the mistress in question.

## LEE-METFORD RIFLE.

**Major RASCH** (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that in shooting with the Lee-Metford rifle (magazine attached) the cartridges usually jam in blank firing, and occasionally in ball practice, rendering the rifle useless; and whether he would consider the possibility of modifying the magazine and breech action to obviate this danger?

***The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE** (Mr. J. Powell-Williams, Birmingham, S.): No complaints of ball cartridge jamming have been received since the present spring was introduced, more than four years ago. Blank cartridge is not intended to be passed through the magazine of the Lee-Metford Rifle, as the absence of the bullet renders the cartridge an imperfect fit.

## EUROPEAN TROOPS (INDIA).

**Major RASCH**: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the fact, as stated by the Sanitary Commissioner to the Government of India in his Report for 1894, that 3,062 men are constantly ineffective from venereal disease, and how on an emergency the Government would propose to replace them in the ranks?

**Lord GEORGE HAMILTON**: I have observed with regret the reported increase in the average number of European troops disabled at one time from venereal disease. I am not aware of any means by which they could be replaced on an emergency.

## MADRAS CITY CIVIL COURT.

**Mr. W. F. LAWRENCE** (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Home authorities have put pressure on the Government of Madras to raise the jurisdiction of the City Civil Court from Rs.2,500 to Rs.5,000; whether he is aware that the Madras Government state that this extension of jurisdiction is open to objections, and that the High Court was itself equally divided in opinion on the merits of the question; whether he is also aware that the chamber of commerce, and other commercial and legal opinion, is opposed to the change; and, if so, whether the said authorities purpose still to urge the change?

**Lord GEORGE HAMILTON**: It is true that, after full consideration of the views expressed by the Government of Madras and by the chambers of commerce, I requested the Government of Madras, in a Dispatch dated 19th March 1896, to take an opportunity of raising the jurisdiction of the City Court to Rs.5,000, unless they saw any strong reason to the contrary. To this Dispatch I have as yet received no reply.

## NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.

**Mr. W. F. LAWRENCE**: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs—(1) what was the cost of the s.s. *Ivy* to the Niger Coast Protectorate; (2) whether he can state the estimate of her upkeep for the current year; (3) whether it is the case that she cannot cross the bar of the Qua Ibo river, and, except during the rainy season, she cannot navigate the Niger or Cross rivers; (4) whether her bottom is only wood sheathed in copper, from which fact she is likely to suffer by the least grounding, causing exposure of her timbers to the action of worms; and, (5) whether there is any place on the West Coast of Africa where such injuries if caused could be attended to?

**Mr. CURZON**: The total cost of the *Ivy*, everything included, was £54,000. The estimate of up-keep, for the current year insurance, repairs, coals, officers and crew included is £8,500. The statements in the third and fonrth paragraphs are substantially correct, but the ship was built for the sea, and not for the river work of the Protectorate; and the copper sheathing was specially designed for the work that she has to do. The last paragraph could better be answered by the Admiralty than by the Foreign Office.

### ROAD REPAIR (COUNTY MONAGHAN.)

Mr. MACALEESE : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) is he aware that a presentment for the making of 755 perches of a new road at Cavancreevy, between Ballybay and Middletown, promoted and supported by a large number of farmers, was rejected at the Road Sessions held at Castleblayney on 11th May last, the cost to be £160 ; and that a presentment to repair the existing road where it leads through the townlands of Alkil, Drummuck, Drumnahinsion, Groves Lower and Groves Upper, was also rejected, the cost to be £60 ; (2) is he aware that this road is dangerous and impassable in winter, and that it is impossible to get produce out to market over it till the late spring; and, (3) whether, seeing that the presentments in both these cases were signed by two justices of the peace, two medical doctors, one of whom is medical officer of the Monaghan Union and two clergymen, the Catholic Parish Priest and the Protestant Rector, he will use his authority to see that this road is repaired ?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR : The facts appear to be stated with substantial accuracy, so I am informed, though I have no information regarding the statements in the second paragraph. With regard to the request at the end of the Question, the hon. Member must doubtless be aware that there is no power or authority resident in me to interfere in this matter, as the construction or repair of roads is vested by law in the Local Authorities. I may, however, point out that where two successive Presentment Sessions have refused to approve an application for a public work it is competent to the persons who made application for such work, under Section 18 of the Grand Jury Act of 1836, to present a Memorial to the Judge of Assize who is empowered to refer the matter to an ordinary jury, and, should their finding be favourable, to direct the Grand Jury to consider the presentment.

### LOUGH FOYLE FISHERIES.

Mr. THOMAS B. CURRAN (Donegal, N.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether his attention has been called to the complaints of the fishermen in Lough Foyle as to the injury done by the dredge-boat of the Derry Port and Harbour Board to the oyster-beds in the Lough by depositing mud inside the Lough ; (2) whether the Fishery Board, acting on a memorial of the fishermen, recently held an Inquiry into the matter, at which it was proved that one valuable oyster-bed had been entirely destroyed and another partially so in the manner mentioned, and also that the mud could be deposited outside the Lough at comparitively slight extra expense ; (3) what the result of the Inquiry was, and, (4) whether, failing action by the Fishery Board, any action will be taken by the Government to save this valuable local industry from destruction ?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR : The facts are generally as stated in the first and second paragraph, except that in regard to the discharge of mud it was proved at the Inquiry, on behalf of the Derry Port and Harbour Commissioners, that their system was adopted on the advice of eminent engineers who had specially considered this question. Were the dredger to discharge the mud at the next available point the additional time occupied by her voyages would be so great as to necessitate the purchase of a second dredger at a cost of £20,000. Under these circumstances, and having regard to the smallness of the oyster fishing industry affected, the value of which is less than £100 a year, the inspectors of fisheries declined to interfere with the navigation of this important port.

### BIRR MILITARY BARRACKS.

Mr. JASPER TULLY : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether it is the intention of the military authorities in Ireland to discontinue the use of the Birr military barracks as a headquarters of a regiment, meaning a loss to the locality of an expenditure there of nearly £40,000 a year ; whether he is aware that these barracks are about the largest in Ireland, and were originally built to hold two full regiments ; that the situation is excellent, and the health record above the average ; that Birr is a first class recruiting district, and possesses within two miles a range suit- for the new rifle, and moreover it is only 65 miles from the Curragh Camp by rail and 50 by road; and, whether, in view of these circumstances, he will be prepared to advise that the military authorities should make no change in the existing arrangements?

*Mr. BRODRICK: The removal of the headquarters of a battalion from Birr was decided in 1890 as a measure conducing to the concentration and efficiency of the Army; and the Secretary of State, while regretting any local inconvenience which may be occasioned, cannot hold out any hope of the decision being changed.

## SALE OF DRINK (COUNTY DOWN).

*Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a Newry magistrate, Mr. Todd, issued a licence to a Newry man to sell intoxicating drinks, on 14th July, at Scarva, near Banbridge, county Down, on the occasion of the usual demonstration there, and that, although the promotors of the meeting were anxious to prevent the sale of such drink, and the police warned the holder of such licence not to sell, he persisted in doing so; and, whether a prosecution will be instituted against the drink seller and the conduct of the magistrate referred to the consideration of the Lord Chancellor?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The action of the magistrate was irregular in signing a consent for a licence to sell at a place outside the Pettty Sessions district in which he usually acted, but as there is no proof that the publican acted in bad faith a prosecution cannot, on the authority of an English case, be sustained. The attention of the Lord Chancellor will be directed to the action of the magistrate.

## MATABELELAND (ARMS AND AMMUNITION).

Mr. HUBERT DUNCOMBE (Cumberland, Egremont): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any reason to suppose that the ammunition used by the warriors of the Matabele has been supplied to them by British subjects or by subjects of any Foreign Power; if not, by whom it was supplied; and whether any person supplying arms or ammunition to the enemy would be liable to summary execution, as in the case of Mr. Stokes?

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain (Birmingham, W.): Inquiries are being made on the spot as to how the rebels have obtained their supplies of arms and ammunition, but no information has yet reached me which would be worth communicating to the House. If any person is shown to have supplied them with arms and ammunition since they broke into rebellion, he will be dealt according to the facts and the law applicable to his case.

Mr. H. C. STEPHENS (Middlesex, Hornsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can say if the description of the killing of the M'Limo is substantially true; and, if so, in order to avoid provoking reprisals, he will use his influence so that in the future restraint shall be exercised to prevent such incidents. The description to which I refer was in the *Daily Graphic* of yesterday?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I did not know before to what description the hon. Member alluded. The newspaper descriptions which I have seen tally generally with the official report, which is not of a character to lead me to think that there is any ground for my interference. I may add that there is still some uncertainty as to whether this gentleman has been killed. [*Laughter.*]

## CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he could state to the House how much of the £500 allotted during 1895–6 under Clause 4 of the Civil Service Estimates, Vote 2, Subhead F 9, was spent; and, how much of the £400 allotted under the same Vote for 1896–7 has been already expended?

Sir J. GORST: £433 5s. 2d. £398 17s. 10d. has been actually spent, and liabilities to a further amount of about £100 have been incurred?

## COUNTY COURT JUDGESHIP (COUNTY DOWN).

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether there is a vacancy for the County Court Judgeship of County Down, and if so, whether the appointment has been given, or is intended to be given, to Mr. Walter Craig, who was a Parliamentary candidate for County Down at the last General Election, and who is now the selected Unionist candidate for the same constituency for the next Parliamentary Election?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have received no notification of a vacancy in the office of County Court Judge for Down.

## GRAND JURY (COUNTY KILKENNY).

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland whether he is aware that the matter of the Grand Jury of the county Kilkenny having given away a printing contract for seven years without having advertised for tenders, was brought before the last Judge of Assize, Mr. Justice Johnston, by counsel on behalf of certain cesspayers, and that his Lordship decided that he could not allow the case to be gone into because the contract was fiated by the Lord Chief Justice at the previous Spring Assizes; whether he will inquire if the Lord Chief Justice was fully informed of the illegal way the contract was made, without advertising for tenders, by the Kilkenny County Grand Jury, before he fiated the presentment; and, whether there is any remedy by which the county cesspayers can undo the arrangement which binds them for seven years to pay for a contract at prices which they believe unjust, fixed without their knowledge or consent, and without the economic safeguard of public advertisement for public tender?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The printing contract for the county Kilkenny was made by the Grand Jury at the Spring Assizes, 1896, for the sum of £300 per annum for seven years, it being the lowest of two tenders put in. The amount is practically the same as that contracted for for many years back. The effect of advertising over the whole of Ireland on a previous occasion failed to bring in tenders as low as this. The presentments were fiated in open Court in the usual public manner, and it was open to any cesspayer then to object and traverse the presentment, but no objection having been made, the Lord Chief Justice fiated the presentment. The whole of the facts were laid before Mr. Justice Johnston at the Summer Assizes, 1896, and he refused to hear the traverse, stating that he was very doubtful if an appeal to the Queen's Bench would be successful. On the 13th April last, the hon. Member was informed, in reply to a question put by him on that date, that there was some doubt, owing to a decision delivered many years ago, whether Grand Juries are bound to advertise for tenders for printing. They are undoubtedly bound to do so in the case of all other contracts. I have several times stated to the House, in reply to the questions of hon. Members that the Government have no control over or responsibility for the action of the Grand Jury in such matters.

## BELFAST WORKHOUSE (DEATH OF INMATE).

MR. S. YOUNG: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Down (MR. MCCARTAN), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the inquest on the body of Elizabeth Monaghan, who died in the lunatic department of Belfast Workhouse on the 18th inst.; whether he is aware that the father of the deceased proved at the inquest that in 1891, when the child was only ten years old, being of sound mind but subject to epileptic fits, she was on the line of a relieving officer sent to the workhouse, and as an epileptic she was sent to the lunatic department; that there were no signs of insanity for two years after her admission to the lunatic department, and then her mind gave way; that the workhouse doctor swore there was no notice that she was insane, and that it was possible for lunatics who were not epileptic to get into the room where this girl was; and that the verdict of the jury condemned the practice of sending a simple epileptic into the lunatic ward, and held that such treatment contributed to her death; and whether he will have full inquiry made into this case, and also into the treatment of epileptics generally in workhouses in Ireland?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have received reports in reference to the inquest on the body of this girl, but as they do not afford a perfectly clear account of the system of treatment pursued of patients suffering from epilepsy in the Belfast Workhouse, I have considered it desirable to make some further inquiries into the matter, and when the result of these further inquiries is before me I will consider the question of investigating the treatment of epileptics generally in Workhouses in Ireland.

## FAIR RENT APPLICATION (IRELAND).

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for West Waterford (Mr. J. J. SHEE), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) who is responsible for the assigning of lay Assistant Commissioners to hear applications to fix fair rents under the Land Law (Ireland) Acts; (2) by what rules such applications are assigned for hearing by the lay Assistant Commissioners; (3) whether, in respect of applications heard during the months of September, October, November, and December 1895, two lay Assistant Commissioners named Messrs. W. Walpole and C. R. Butler had assigned for hearing by them with a legal Assistant Commissioner a larger number of cases than any other two lay Assistant Commissioners, and whether the aggregate of the old rents dealt with by them was £3,092 15s. 3d, and the reduction on same amounted to 19·49 per cent; (4) whether during the same period the aggregates of the old rents dealt with by the other sets of lay Assistant Commissioners were respectively £2,037 3s. 1d., £1,913 7s., £1,574 12s. 7d., £798 0s. 6d., and £599 14s. 7d., on which the reductions made were respectively 22·43 per cent., 22·79 per cent., 26·53 per cent., 22·93 per cent., and 31·1 per cent.; (5) is there any explanation of the difference between the percentage of reduction made by the several sets of lay Assistant Commissioners; and (6) whether the same state of facts applies to the months of January and February this year in respect of the cases heard during these months?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: As to the first two paragraphs, the system followed is explained in the appendix to the Report of the Select Committee on Land Acts. The figures quoted in the third and fourth paragraphs appear to be taken from the Parliamentary Return of judicial rents fixed in the period mentioned, but the inference attempted to be drawn in the third paragraph is not correct, inasmuch as that Return merely contains particulars of cases in which the decisions of the Sub-Commissioners were notified to the Land Commission and does not show the number of cases actually referred to the Sub-Commissioners in the same period. As a matter of fact a larger number of cases were sent in this period to other Sub-Commissioners than to those named in the third paragraph. It is not the fact, as implied in the fourth paragraph, that the Assistant Commissioners named therein fixed the judicial rents in question at a higher aggregate amount than any other set of Assistant Commissioners employed during the same period. As to the last two paragraphs, the rents referred to were fixed by the Assistant Commissioners after having heard the evidence that was offered to them by the parties, and after inspecting the holdings. Their orders were made in a judicial capacity, and if the parties were dissatisfied an appeal lay to the Land Commission.

## RULE OF ROAD AT SEA.

MR. A. F. WARR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the operation of the revised Regulations for preventing collisions at sea, referred to in the notice published in the *London Gazette* of 14th July 1896, will be delayed until it has been ascertained that the principal foreign maritime nations are prepared to adopt similar Regulations, so as to avoid the confusion and danger which would result from ships of different nationalities approaching one another in such manner as to avoid risk of collision not being bound by the same regulations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): The principal foreign maritime nations agreed to the Regulations in question before Rule 15, dealing with fog signals, was modified in order to meet the views of the English shipowners. I have no reason whatever for supposing that they will refuse to agree to those modifications, or to put in force the Rules on the 1st July 1897, when they will become operative in this country.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade —(1) whether he will lay on the Table of the House the terms of the draft Order in Council relative to the regulations for preventing collisions at sea, which the *London Gazette* of 14th July announces, will be submitted to Her Majesty in Council after forty days from the 14th July; (2) whether this draft Order has been submitted to and approved by the Admiralty; (3) whether the new Regulations to be imposed by the draft Order have been submitted to the Governments of any foreign countries; and, if so, which of such Governments have approved and which have disapproved of them; (4) whether he has received a copy of the protest against the proposed new Rules signed by the representatives at New York of the great steamship lines, including the Cunard, the White Star, and the North German Lloyd lines; and (5) whether he proposes to afford to shipowners and ship's officers in general or this House any opportunity of expressing an opinion on the proposed new Regulations before they are imposed on the mercantile marine by Order in Council?

MR. RITCHIE: I will consult the noble Duke the Lord President of the Council with regard to the first paragraph of the hon. Member's Question. As at present advised, I see no objection to laying on the Table the Regulations in question, which will be embodied in the Order in Council to be submitted to Her Majesty. These Regulations have received the concurrence of the Admiralty. They were agreed to by foreign Governments with the exception of the amendment to Article XV., in respect to which we have no reason to believe that there will be any disagreement with the material concessions which have been made to British shipowners. The answer to the fourth paragraph is in the negative, and, as regards the fifth, the fullest opportunity has been given to shipowners and ships' officers for expressing their opinion on the Regulations, and Article XV. is now framed in order to meet as far as possible the views expressed by those persons.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether the German Government or the Norwegian Government have agreed to these regulations?

MR. RITCHIE: The question was not put to foreign Governments in the first instance, but to the United States by England. We have now communicated the regulations to all foreign Governments, Germany included, and we have no reason to doubt they will agree.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Then, as a matter of fact, only the United States have agreed to adopt them?

MR. RITCHIE: Yes.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: And no other Government?

MR. RITCHIE: Before communicating with other Governments, we considered it necessary to obtain the assent of the United States. It was necessary that these Rules should be settled, and the United States Government required to pass a law through Congress to give effect to them. After having obtained their assent, we communicated with foreign Governments.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I will only ask further whether this House will be allowed an opportunity of discussing these Rules?

MR. RITCHIE: No, Sir, I believe it is not usual, and there will be no opportunity of doing so, so far as I know.

## DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIC SERUMS.

MR. HARRY SAMUELS: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to a Report of the Special Commission on the Relative Strengths of Diphtheria Antitoxic Serums, published in *The Lancet* of July 18th, 1896, in which it is shown that the antitoxic serums now in the market in this country vary greatly in strength; whether he is aware that the Government in Germany have instituted a State laboratory, of which Professor Ehrlich is now the head, for the express purpose of testing the antitoxins produced by manufacturers and certifying the strength of serum contained in each bottle, which is then sent out bearing the Government stamp and seal; and, whether, with regard to the conclusions of *The Lancet* Commissioners, he is prepared to take steps similar to those already taken in Germany to insure that the strength of the antitoxic serums employed in this country shall be maintained at a uniform standard?

MR. CHAPLIN: I am aware that, according to the Report referred to, the antitoxic serums sold in this country vary much in strength, and the statement in the Question as to the action taken in Germany is, I believe, correct. The powers vested in the Local Government Board have reference to prevention of disease in connection with sanitary administration and not the cure of disease, and they, therefore, are not empowered to control the sale of any remedy for the treatment of disease. It appears to me that there would be a considerable difficulty in the Government undertaking to control the purity or strength of one particular remedy, as suggested. The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are intended to provide a remedy for the sale of drugs to the prejudice of the purchaser.

## STATISTICS OF COTTON, WOOLLEN, AND IRON TRADES.

MR. KENYON (Bury, Lancashire): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will get for the House statistics as to rates of wages paid and hours worked in the cotton, woollen, and iron (engineering and machine making) trades in France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Russia, and Japan?

MR. CURZON: I shall have much pleasure in obtaining the latest information on the subject from the countries named. The reports which Her Majesty's representatives will be instructed to make will be laid on the Table when received.

## BOMBAY AND MADRAS COTTON TRADE.

MR. KENYON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he will get for the House statistics as to the rates of wages paid and hours worked in the cotton trade in Bombay and Madras?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: Wages in India are usually paid by the piece, and vary according to the season of the year. The fullest information that I possess on this subject, and as to the hours of labour (which is limited by law), is contained in the Factory Reports for Bombay and Madras, copies of which I shall be happy to supply to my hon. Friend, if he wishes it.

## TRANSVAAL RAID.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the character of the offences for which Dr. Jameson and his companions were convicted, he will consider the advisability of having them treated in prison as misdemeanants of the first class, so that they may be allowed the same privileges as to wearing their own clothes, dietary, literature, and visits, as was granted to Colonel Rhodes and other prisoners convicted of similar offences when imprisoned in Pretoria by the Government of the Transvaal Republic?

MR. J. F. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, having regard to the character of the offence of which Dr. Jameson and his coadjutors have been convicted, and the absence of any criminal motive in the proceedings that led to their conviction, he will order that during the period of their detention they be treated as political prisoners?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): Under the Prison Act of 1865, it is the sentencing Court alone which has power to order that a person convicted of misdemeanour, and not sentenced to hard labour, should be treated as a first-class misdemeanant. In this case the Court decided to make no such order, and the prisoners are being treated in the ordinary way by law. The Secretary of State has no legal power whatever to alter the definite direction of the Court. Whether such an alteration of the conditions of imprisonment ought in this case to be effected by the exercise of the Royal prerogative is a matter on which I am not in a position to make a statement at present.

Mr. G. WYNDHAM (Dover): Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the fact, that as I am informed, gentlemen bearing Her Majesty's commission automatically forfeited their commission unless intervention did take place. [*Cries of* "Order"!]

*Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise out of the question on the Paper.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) asked whether President Kruger did not treat his prisoners as first-class misdemeanants?

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY was understood to say that he did not know.

Sir ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Her Majesty's Government intend to take any steps for the purpose of bringing to justice persons who have prepared or furthered the recent raid of Dr. Jameson, without risking their own lives?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Richard Webster, Isle of Wight): I must refer my hon. and learned Friend to the answer I gave in reference to this matter early in the Session, and to which I have on other occasions adhered. I must decline to give any information as to any proceedings which I propose to direct, or as to persons against whom any proceedings may be taken.

## CONVICT PRISON WARDERS.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether in striking the average of time on duty for convict prison warders at nine hours and 15 minutes per day, the 365 days of the year were included; whether clerks and other employés, whose hours are shorter than ordinary prison warders, were also included in the calculation which worked out the average of nine hours and 15 minutes; if so, whether he has any objection to give the average of hours per day and week, including Sundays, during which convict prison warders in uniform are kept on duty, omitting clerks and other higher grade officials not in uniform?

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I think some mistake must have been made by the hon. Member. The information I gave him in my two previous answers on this subject was that the daily average all the year round worked out at 9 hours 5 minutes, and that the maximum number of hours worked in any one week was 65 hours 40 minutes, which gives a daily average for that week of (about) 9 hours 23 minutes. In making this calculation, the hours of discipline officers alone were reckoned; those of clerks and other employés were not included.

## ARMY FOOD SUPPLIES (IRELAND).

Mr. J. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, in view of the fact that the contractor for the supply of meat to the troops at Enniskillen was prosecuted at the Enniskillen Petty Sessions, and fined in the sum of ten pounds sterling, for having a quantity of unsound meat on his premises on the 14th instant, and which had been rejected on the morning of that day by the Military authorities as unsound and unfit for human food, will he state whether the meat supplied to the troops there is Foreign meat, and will he state on how many occasions has the meat been rejected by the Military authorities at Enniskillen since the contract was taken over by the present contractor, and on what dates; and what steps, if any, the Government purpose taking to secure that the troops in future will be supplied with sound and wholesome food?

*Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS: With the short notice given by the hon. Member, I have been able to obtain only a telegraphic report, which is as follows:—

> "All meat rejected 14th July. Contractor allowed to replace whole. Contractor fined £10 by Civil authority for tainted meat seized same day on his private premises. The meat is American, slaughtered at Birkenhead. Four rejections altogether—14th June, 29th June, 6th July, 14th July; all under contract held by present contractor."

The conditions of the contract secure that the troops shall be supplied with sound and wholesome food, and they appear to be rigidly enforced.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Will that meat be English meat?

*MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS: I have frequently explained that there is no restriction as to the place of origin.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I shall call attention to the subject.

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): Is this system to be allowed to continue in Enniskillen of importing American meat, when Irish meat is available?

## EDUCATION FEE GRANT (SCOTLAND).

MR. W. THORBURN (Peebles and Selkirk): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, seeing that Government has now made provision in the Supplementary Estimates for the larger Fee Grant due to Scotland during the financial year 1895–6, they will, as in the case of Ireland, make further provision to remedy the injustice sustained by Scotland during the preceding three years under the late Government?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): This matter is now under the consideration of the Treasury and the Scottish Education Department. Of course, Scotland must be treated on the same basis as Ireland, with regard to the Fee Grant in the three years preceding 1895–6.

## SMOKING ACCOMMODATION (LORDS AND COMMONS).

MR. JOHN AIRD (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if arrangements could be made during the Recess and before the next Session of Parliament for a smoking room to be available for Members both of the House of Lords and House of Commons?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The general question of the smoking room accommodation in the House has been receiving my careful consideration, and I regret to say that I have been unable to find any further space in that portion of the building allotted to the House of Commons. Of course, if there is a disposition on the part of the House of Lords, as suggested by my hon. Friend, to meet us with the offer of further accommodation, the difficulty might be solved. [*Cheers.*] Perhaps my hon. Friend will speak to me on the matter.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider whether smoking should not be allowed in the map room? ["No."]

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I have already considered that question, and there is a very general objection to it. ["Hear, hear!"]

## EAST INDIA ACCOUNTS.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India when the explanatory memorandum by the State on the East India Accounts and Estimates will be distributed to Members, and whether there is any reason for the delay this year in the distribution?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: The memorandum is now ready, the last figures having been received from India by the mail just arrived. The delay in preparation is due to pressure of the work in the Financial Department owing to the mass of information required by the Royal Commission on Indian expenditure.

## WRECK OF STEAMSHIP "DRUMMOND CASTLE."

MR. H. C. STEPHENS (Middlesex, Hornsey): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, with regard to printing the evidence of the *Drummond Castle* Inquiry, whether, as the larger portion of the cost has been already incurred by the transcribing of the notes, and in view of the importance of the evidence, he will consent that the Report of the Inquiry shall be printed.

MR. RITCHIE: The Report, which is a very full one, will be printed in the usual course. It deals so clearly and comprehensively with the various points of interest involved that I do not consider it would be of any advantage to incur the expense of publishing the evidence, which I may say would be a very unusual course.

## MOUNTJOY RAILWAY STATION.

Mr. W. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade—(1) whether the Great Northern Railway Company still refuse to open the Mountjoy railway station, which was formerly carried on by the previous Company; (2) whether any complaints have been made about the serving of the level crossing at night; (3) and, whether the re-establishment of the station has been repeatedly requested by the people of the district?

Mr. RITCHIE: The reply to the first and third paragraphs of the hon. Member's Question is in the affirmative. I know of no complaints about the serving of the level crossing at night. As the hon. Member has already been informed the Board of Trade have no power in the matter. The remedy provided by the law is an appeal to the Railway Commissioners.

## PERSECUTION OF ARMENIANS.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will lay upon the Table of the House correspondence relating to the massacre and persecution of Armenians, which have taken place subsequent to the events described in the last published Reports of Vice Consul Fitzmaurice; whether he can state if the recommendations of Vice Consul Fitzmaurice, arising out of the Biredjik Commission, have been fully carried out; and, whether, in view of the terrible destitution of the Armenians in the disturbed districts, he can give the House any reassuring information as to the steps which are being taken to prevent further outbreaks and to improve the position of the sufferers?

Mr. CURZON: I have already informed the House that in due course further Papers will be laid. Orders have been sent by the Porte to the Turkish Commission at Biredjik that all who desire to revert to Christianity should be allowed to do so, and that the security of their property, honour, and lives should be guaranteed. Mr. Fitzmaurice has reported that a number of Armenian households have already taken advantage of this permission, and that he expected the return of other Armenians who had fled, and the speedy reversion to Christianity of the neighbouring villages. The Armenian Church, which had been turned into a mosque, had been restored; priests had been brought back; and, as recommended by him, a battalion of regulars was on its way to Biredjik from Aleppo to replace the reserves. Her Majesty's Embassy do not cease to bring to the notice of the Porte any special information that reaches them from localities where distress exists, or where further outbreaks may be apprehended, and they have reason to believe that these representations are not without effect.

## LENNARD ESTATE (CLONES, COUNTY MONAGHAN).

Mr. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) will he explain why the proprietor tenants on the Lennard estate, Clones, county Monaghan, who purchased their holdings under the Ashbourne Act, and obtained a certified copy of the vesting Order, which Order contained a map of the holding to which it applied, have, since the passing of the Local Registration of Titles Bill, been compelled to lodge the certified copy of the vesting Order with the Registrar of Titles, receiving in lieu thereof a land certificate without any map whatever; (2) is he aware that this has caused great inconvenience to those tenants in cases of disputed right of way or in litigation where maps can only be produced by going to the expense of having new ones made, or compelling the registration authorities to produce the vesting Order by subpœna; (3) whether in the cases of all purchases since the passing of the Act of 1891 the vesting Order and certified copy which are given to the purchaser contain a certificate in the margin that the title has been registered under the Local Registration of Titles Act, and no land certificate is issued; and (4) will he cause the old vesting Orders referred to, with a certificate endorsed thereon, to be returned to the tenants?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: On registration, the land certificate supersedes the vesting Order as the evidence of title, and consequently the copy vesting Order held by the tenant is called in, and a copy land certificate is issued in lieu thereof by the Irish Land Commission, who retain the original. The inconvenience caused is hardly what the second paragraph would suggest, owing to the fact that the registered holdings are marked on the maps retained in the local offices as well as on those in the central office, and can be inspected there, or, if necessary, produced in Court by the registering authority. The vesting Order and certified copy referred to in the third paragraph are, in fact, the land certificate and copy land certificate. In cases in which vesting Orders are executed since the passing of the Act, the duplicate of the vesting Order is issued as a land certificate pursuant to Rule 36 of the General Rules made under the Local Registration of Titles Act. As regards the last paragraph, it would not be desirable to issue two certificates to the owner, as would be the case should a copy land certificate, and a copy vesting Order certified in the way suggested, be issued.

### COMMISSIONERS OF IRISH LIGHTS.

**MR. FIELD**: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state under what statutory or other authority the Board of Trade have allowed the expenses incurred by the Irish Board of Lights in defending Harrison's case, in which they were condemned in damages and costs; and whether the Board of Trade have had submitted to them any full account of such expenses?

**MR. RITCHIE**: The Board of Trade are advised that the costs incurred by the Commissioners of Irish Lights in defending Harrison's case are properly payable, under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, out of the Mercantile Marine Fund, as expenses incurred by the General Lighthouse Authority. The Board of Trade have sanctioned the payment of part of these expenses, but they have not yet received details of the final account.

### AGRICULTURAL PARCEL POST.

**MR. HENNIKER HEATON**: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General—(1) whether he is considering the question of introducing an agricultural parcel post, at special low rates (as recommended for many years past by the hon. Member for Canterbury), for the carriage of British flowers, fruit, vegetables, poultry, and dairy produce, with a view to give to British cultivators some portion of the forty millions sterling annually paid by British consumers for similar produce from abroad; (2) whether one grave difficulty in the way is the existence of an arrangement made some years ago, whereby 55 per cent. of the postage on parcels is paid to the railway companies for bare carriage, while the Post Office receives only 45 per cent. for doing all the work of collection, sorting, and distribution; and, if so, how long such an arrangement has to run; and (3) whether the further objections caused by the difficulty of distinguishing between Foreign and British produce and between agricultural produce and other articles might be met by requiring every agriculturist sending his produce by the agricultural parcel post to append a statement (somewhat on the lines of that required for the pattern and sample post) stating that the contents are British agricultural produce of his own growing?

**MR. HANBURY**: The carriage of parcels of agricultural and dairy produce by post at special rates has been advocated for many years past from many quarters, though it is doubtful how far it would benefit the agricultural districts themselves. It is quite true, as the hon. Member states, that the Act of Parliament which directs that 55 per cent. of the postage on parcels should be paid to the railway companies is a factor in the problem of considerable importance. The arrangement made by the Act expires in 1904. There is no condition that a statement should be appended stating that the contents are British (as the hon. Member supposes in the last paragraph of his question) in the sample or pattern post, and so there is no experience to show how far it would be practical in the case of the proposed agricultural parcel post.

### RHODESIA (FOOD SUPPLIES).

**SIR ELLIS ASHMEAD-BARTLETT** (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies—(1) what steps Her Majesty's

Government are taking to expedite the conveyance of food supplies to Rhodesia; (2) what progress is being made with the railway line from Mafeking to Buluwayo; and (3) whether Her Majesty's Government will hold fresh military forces in readiness at the termini of the railway lines approaching Rhodesia, so that they can be sent forward as soon as the supplies are increased?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The officials of the British South Africa Company and the Imperial military authorities in South Africa are straining every nerve to increase the foodstuffs in the country. I may mention that I am making inquiries as to the possibility of employing camels for transport, but without much hope that such a step will be found feasible. The rails of the Mafeking-Gaberones line had reached the 53-mile 40-chain peg on June 20. I understand that the progress since then has been at a rapid rate. In reply to the third paragraph of the question, I have to say that it is a question for the discretion of the local military authorities how many troops should be kept at the terminus of the Mafeking line in readiness to be pushed forward and how many should be kept at the Cape.

## SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT (ATTENDANCES).

SIR JOSEPH LEESE (Lancashire, Accrington): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education, with reference to the recent circular issued by the Science and Art Department, why the Department is only willing to pay a grant in aid on 20 attendances in one elementary art subject and on 30 attendances altogether in two or more subjects, when many more than these attendances may and will be made during a session by students in art schools, and whether in science classes grant is payable on 60 attendances in one subject and on 120 attendances altogether in two or more subjects; and whether the form in question will apply to schools where arrangements for the ensuing session had already been made before the receipt of it on 3rd July?

SIR J. GORST: The limit to the number of attendances for which the attendance grant can be paid is intended to prevent the grants under the new system from too largely exceeding those under the old. It has been ascertained that there are not many pupils taking the elementary work in art schools who make more than 20 attendances in a session. The attendance grant to science classes is paid on the basis mentioned in the question; but these classes do not get the grants for work executed in the school during the session, which forms a large part of the grant to art schools. In order to avoid the difficulties indicated in the last paragraph of the question, the Committee of Council have decided to give all schools the option of remaining under the old rules for another year.

## STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (MINING ROYALTY).

MR. A. STRAUSS (Cornwall, (Camborne): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that the tin miners in the Straits Settlements are demanding a reduction of the royalty payable to the State; and whether, in view of the great depression in the Cornish mining industry, which would be increased thereby, he will consider the advisability of refusing this demand?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information such as that indicated in the hon. Member's Question. If such a demand is made, the decision on it ought *prima facie* to be decided in accordance with the interests of the Native Protected States concerned.

## VOLUNTEER CORPS (FINANCIAL POSITION).

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if the bonus proposed by the Government and voted by Parliament to enable Volunteer corps to adjust their financial positions has yet been paid; and if, in allocating it, care will be taken not to penalise regiments whose officers have made pecuniary sacrifices for the good of their corps, or whose affairs have been so economically administered as not to show the debts which some regiments have incurred, in the hope that they would one day or other be paid by a compassionate State or a public spirited individual?

*MR. BRODRICK: The issues are being made in all cases in which the finances of the corps are in a fairly satisfactory condition. In the case of those corps whose accounts show a deficiency unprovided for, arrangements are required, before the extra capitation is paid, which shall secure the deficiency being met within a reasonable period and shall prevent its recurrence.

### ARBITRATION (IRELAND).

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that at present there is but one arbitrator to carry out arbitration inquiries under the Lands Clauses, Labourers and other Irish Acts, and that it is physically impossible for him to do all the work, he will consider the advisability of appointing additional arbitrators to facilitate proceedings, especially under the new Labourers' Act?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It is not a fact that there is but one arbitrator appointed to hold inquiries referred to in the Question. There are two. Delays have occasionally occurred in arbitration proceedings, but these delays have rarely been attributable to the inability of these gentlemen to find sufficient time, and have generally been caused by the prescribed procedure, which is not expeditious, or by defective information placed before the arbitrator by local authorities. The Labourers Bill now before Parliament proposes, by way of simplifying procedure under the Labourers Acts, to apply the procedure under the Housing of Working Classes Act instead of that under the Lands Clauses Act. One of the effects of this will be that the arbitrator will be appointed by the Local Government Board.

### LONGFORD CANAL HARBOUR.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the dangerous condition of the canal harbour at Longford and the advice given to the Midland Great Western Railway Company to rail it in, which they say legal advice compels them not to do, will he consent to the introduction of a short Bill in next Session to authorise the construction of protective palings at such places?

MR. RITCHIE: I am not prepared to make any statement as to the legislation of next Session, but if the hon Member introduces such a Bill as he suggests I will give it careful consideration.

### MAIL SERVICE (IRELAND).

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General whether any, and if so what, steps have been taken to improve the mid-day mail service between Clones and Cavan and Clones and Belturbet, as promised by him on 5th June?

MR. HANBURY: The hon. Member is under a misapprehension in supposing that any promise was made in the answer given on the 5th June to improve the Clones, Cavan and Belturbet mid-day mail service. On the contrary, it was stated that the existing arrangement of trains did not admit of a better day mail service and that the establishment of special trains would not be justified.

### MERIONETHSHIRE MINES COMMITTEE.

MR. THOMAS ELLIS (Merionethshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether and how far the recommendations of the Merionethshire Mines Committee have been adopted and put into operation?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: A large and important part of the recommendations of this Committee has reference to improved methods of working, the adoption of which is voluntary on the part of the owners, and to such matters as the health, food, clothing, houses, &c., of the workmen. How far these recommendations have been carried out I cannot say, but by distributing the Report and having it translated into Welsh, the Home Office has done all it can to bring these matters to the knowledge of the persons concerned, and the inspectors have constantly pressed them upon the mine owners. Of the other recommendations some require legislation and must wait until time can be found to amend the Metalliferous Mines Acts;

but others can be carried out by means of special rules, and the chief inspector is now endeavouring to secure their adoption.

## ELECTRIC LIGHTING AND ELECTRIC TRACTION.

**Mr. ELLIOTT LEES** (Birkenhead): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the danger of injury being done to existing electric lighting undertakings if electric railways should be constructed under the Light Railways Bill, unless the regulations now prescribed by the Board of Trade with regard to electric traction be amended so as to include precautions to prevent the currents of existing electric lighting undertakings being affected by the currents of electric railways; and whether he is prepared to amend these regulations?

**Mr. RITCHIE**: It will be the duty of the Board of Trade to see that there are inserted in the Order authorising a light railway proposed to be worked electrically such provisions to secure public safety and the interests of electric lighting or other undertakings as they may deem advisable. If it is necessary to amend the existing regulations they can be amended in the Order.

## ASSIZES (STAFFORD).

**Mr. CHARLES SHAW** (Stafford): I beg to ask the Attorney General if the Lord Chancellor contemplates issuing an Order in Council for the abolition of civic business at all future assizes in the borough of Stafford; if he can state what are the exact terms of such proposed Order; and to request that such Order may not be promulgated until the local authorities and the county council have had an opportunity of expressing their protests against any such change.

**The ATTORNEY GENERAL**: I venture to refer my hon. Friend to my answer to the previous questions on this subject. The Lord Chancellor has assured me that no Orders will be made without affording the localities interested an opportunity of expressing their views upon the matter.

*Sir Matthew White Ridley.*

## INCIDENCE OF LOCAL TAXATION INQUIRY.

**Mr. THORBURN**: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Commission has yet been appointed to inquire into the incidence of local taxation; and, if not, if he will give an assurance that it will be appointed before the close of the present Session.

**Mr. CHAPLIN**: My right hon. Friend has asked me to reply to this question. The constitution of the Commission is far advanced. I have no doubt that it will be completed before the end of the Session, and that I shall shortly be able to make the announcement of its appointment.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

**Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT** (Monmouthshire, W.): Can the First Lord of the Treasury give us any further information as to the course of public business, especially in regard to Supply?

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY** (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): On Friday we propose to take the Votes for the Home Office and other administrative offices. The Army and Scotch Votes will be taken next week. There will be a Saturday sitting, I am afraid. I will state what Bills will be taken on Saturday to-morrow.

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## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

**Mr. RITCHIE** asked leave to introduce a Bill to legalise the use of weights and measures of the metric system. He explained that the Government did not propose to pass the Bill this Session. It had been prepared in compliance with the wishes of many Chambers of Commerce. They desired to know on what lines the Government were inclined to legislate on this subject, and they would be able to consider the Bill during the Recess.

**Mr. GIBSON BOWLES** (Lynn Regis) gave the right hon. Gentleman notice that he should oppose this Bill with all his power. If the right hon. Gentleman was going to impose a metric standard on the country, and try to drive out of the country the present system, which provided accommodation for all the purposes of the people, he was entering upon a crusade which would be long and which he would find very difficult. He was not prepared to depart from the English yard or quart as standards, in order to render unintelligible a great part of the literature of the country. At every stage he should give to this most audacious Bill all the opposition in his power.

Bill to legalise the use of weights and measures of the metric system, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ritchie and the First Lord of the Treasury; presented accordingly, and read the First time; to be read a Second time upon Monday next, and to be printed.—[Bill 329.]

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## BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA. APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.), who was received with cheers, rose to move :—

> "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the administration of the British South Africa Company, and to report what alterations are desirable in the government of the territories under the control of the Company;
>
> "That the Committee have leave to hear Counsel to such extent as they shall see fit, and have power to send for persons, papers, and records."

The right hon. Gentleman, said: Mr. Speaker, it will be in the recollection of the House that on several occasions I have promised, on behalf of the Government, that as soon as Dr. Jameson's trial was concluded I would state the proposals of the Government with regard to the further Inquiry into the administration of the British South Africa Company; and, according to that promise, on the night the verdict was given I placed the present notice on the Paper. ["Hear, hear!"] We have had to consider, and we have considered very carefully, in what form this further Inquiry should be made. The question was, of course, mainly between a Commission and a Committee, and I confess that, as far as I was personally concerned, I was inclined to favour the form of a Commission—["Hear, hear!"]—although I admit that there is a great deal to be said on the other side. The reasons for selecting a Commission would have been twofold. In the first place, a Commission would have undoubtedly more of a judicial character, it would be more absolutely free from any political element than a Parliamentary Committee, and in this matter, I think, we should all admit that would have been of very considerable advantage. In the second place, a Commission would undoubtedly have got to work rather earlier; and then, again, I think, there will be universal agreement that this is one of those matters which it is most desirable should be cleared out of the way as soon as possible. ["Hear, hear!"] We want to close the chapter of inquiry, we want to come to the great questions underlying the problems in South Africa, which are independent altogether of recent occurrences; and we cannot come to the consideration of those great questions until this matter of the Inquiry, and the consequences of inquiry, are altogether done away with. I think, therefore, the House will unanimously agree that the earliest possible moment is the best moment for concluding such an Inquiry. ["Hear, hear!"] But I may point out that the difference in point of time between a Commission and a Committee would not be very great. A Commission could not possibly meet until after the long vacation, and therefore the difference in time would be measured only by weeks and no longer period. I, therefore, felt that, although there were strong considerations in favour of a Commission, they were not strong enough to make it absolutely necessary to seek inquiry by that method. There are other grounds, no doubt, in favour of a Parliamentary Committee. In the first place, there is no doubt that precedents, and especially the precedent connected with the Inquiry into the affairs of the old East India Company, are all in favour of a Parliamentary Inquiry; and there is something which I regard as more important than that. The reference we propose to submit to the Commission is a very wide one, and it is a reference which I do not think could be submitted to any body in the nature of a Judicial Commission. We could not ask a Judicial Commission to investigate all the details of the administration of the Chartered Company, or ask them to give us advice on matters of policy which are matters entirely for the Executive Government and the House at large. In addition to these, which I think are strong reasons, finding, after inquiry, that on the whole the general opinion of the House was undoubtedly in favour of a wide reference, and consequently in favour of a Parliamentary Committee, the Government decided to move for that form of Inquiry. [" Hear, hear ! "] When dealing with the question before and pointing out the alternative, I did suggest that if a Parliamentary Committee were to be appointed it might take the form of a Joint Committee of the two Houses, and I based that suggestion on the latest precedent—namely, the proposal for further inquiry into East Indian questions, which was intended to have taken that form. But here, again, objection was taken in certain quarters of the House, and as I desire very much, if possible, to carry all sections of the House with me in this proceeding, I have not thought it desirable to insist on what I think myself would have been a reasonable alternative. ["Hear, hear!"] Therefore, the proposal I now make to the House is for a Parliamentary Committee, which I hope the House will consent to make a small Committee. [" Hear, hear ! "] I do not think a matter of this kind can be properly inquired into by a large Committee. [" Hear, hear ! "] We know what great difficulties there are, and how the size of a Committee tends to prolong Inquiry. I think myself that a Committee of 13 would be ample, unless there is any objection to that number on superstitious grounds. [*Laughter.*] I think that 13, or at the outside 15, is the largest Committee that ought to be appointed. [" Hear, hear ! "] I have stated that the reference we propose to give to the Committee is a wide one. That is only in accordance with the promises that have been given. In the first place, a promise was given in the Queen's Speech that there should be a full inquiry into the origin and circumstances attending the raid, and, in communication with President Kruger, a promise was also given, though in different language, that there would be the fullest possible inquiry. Then, subsequently, in answer to questions, I have expressed my personal opinion that there was no objection to the enlargement of the Inquiry into questions connected with the administration of the Chartered Company, and also into the circumstances which have led to the recent rebellion in Matabeleland and Rhodesia. In answer to a question, I have said that I consider that is secured by the terms of the reference I have put on the Paper. In choosing these terms my object and intention was to choose the widest possible form of reference, and I have no doubt whatever that the terms actually chosen do include, not merely inquiry into the cause of the recent rebellion, but also into the circumstances of the recent invasion of the Transvaal ; and I was under the impression that the Leader of the Opposition shared my opinion in that respect ; but I judge that I am in error in that, because I have heard that the right hon. Gentleman and other Members have put down Amendments intended to make it clear that an Inquiry into the origin of the raid is contemplated. There can be no possible objection to make it clear what is the undoubted intention of the Government, and in those circumstances I say at once that I propose to accept the Amendment down in the name of the Leader of the Opposition. There is only one other matter to which I need refer, and that is the proposal that the Committee have leave to hear counsel. The terms of the Motion state that " The Committee have leave to hear counsel to such extent as they shall see fit." I may say that that is a statement taken from the terms of reference in the case of the Hyderabad-Deccan Company. I believe that is a precedent we may very well follow. It gives the power to parties interested in the Inquiry to appear by counsel. At the same time it gives the Committee power to restrain counsel from excessive activity—[*laughter*]—and to confine them to what is strictly relevant to the Inquiry. I do not think that there is anything further to explain.

MR. H. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) : Will the right hon. Gentleman state what he intends to do with regard to the taking of evidence on oath ?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Committees always have power to take evidence on oath, and I assume the Committee would do so.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: In the case of the Committee moved for by Mr. Bradlaugh it was expressly stated that all the evidence should be taken on oath. Would the right hon. Gentleman object to that?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I think it is a matter that should be left to the Committee. I have expressed my opinion that the evidence will be taken on oath, as it was taken in the Hyderabad-Deccan case. In that case they stated on the first day that they would take all evidence on oath. I beg to move, Sir. [*Cheers.*]

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I rise to express my general concurrence in all that has been said by the right hon. Gentleman. I think, Sir, that he has been perfectly right in determining that this Inquiry should be made by a Committee and a Committee of the House of Commons. The reasons he has given against a Commission are, I think, conclusive, and I should say that a judicial body could not with advantage deal with a question of this kind, which is not mainly or primarily a judicial question. It is a question of administration of an Imperial character, and is one which is entirely out of the province of Judges to deal with. Therefore, I entirely concur in the view that this Inquiry should be by a Committee of the House of Commons. ["Hear, hear!"] The House of Commons has dealt for more than a century with the Government of India by great Committees. Everybody who knows anything of the history of India knows that the form of government in India was settled by Committees which sat in the time of Pitt, Fox, and Burke, at the end of the last century. Therefore, I cannot see that any body is so fit to deal with this question as a Committee of the House of Commons. The right hon. Gentleman has also referred to the question of time, and he has said that a Commission would have saved very little time as compared with a Committee. But also, I think, the question of time is not so material as it would have been six months ago, because the Inquiry here is to be what is to be done in the future with this district in South Africa. Well, in the midst of this great conflagration no Committee could have arrived at a satisfactory conclusion until they learned what condition the country was in after that conflagration was over. We cannot decide what the new house shall be until the fire is extinguished or until we know what are the ruins. I very much fear that the condition of South Africa is such that it will require a great reconstruction before we arrive at anything like a satisfactory conclusion. Therefore, if anything like a Report upon the future administration of the territories now under the Government of the Queen should take place immediately, or at some early period, we should come to a conclusion of very little value. Until this rebellion is repressed and until we know what remains after the destructive effects of that rebellion, until we know what population will still remain in Rhodesia and in what condition that population is, we cannot properly consider or come to any conclusion as to what or whether any limitations are desirable in the government of that country. I am not so much impressed, therefore, as some people are by the consideration of time. It is quite plain that whatever you have—a Commission or a Committee—you cannot come to any satisfactory conclusion until you are able to know a great deal more of the condition of that country than you know now. ["Hear, hear!"] The right hon. Gentleman has referred to the terms of the original Motion, and I entirely concur in what he has said. He was kind enough to show me the terms of the Motion, and my first impression was that they covered everything. It was only after further examination and reflection, just before arriving at the House yesterday, that I put my Amendment upon the Paper, and I tried at the time to communicate with the right hon. Gentleman, and I was sorry that I was not able to see him. That is the reason that the Amendment appears upon the Paper to-day without notice of it having been given to the right hon. Gentleman. ["Hear, hear!"] I have followed in the Amendment the exact words of the Queen's Speech. I have never had the smallest doubt that the right hon. Gentleman intended to make the preparations for the incursion into the South African Republic one of the subjects of Inquiry, or that it would be one of the primary subjects of the Inquiry. [''Hear, hear!''] Indeed, his own words, speaking of the subject, were :—

> "I have promised that the proposed Inquiry shall be full and searching,"

and then he said :—

> "What is to be inquired into? The first matter is Dr. Jameson's invasion and all the circumstances attending it."

Therefore I have followed entirely the statement and intention of the right hon. Gentleman with reference to the nature of the proposed Inquiry. I see that there are upon the Paper various other Amendments by hon. Friends of mine who have been good enough to say that they have no objection to my Amendment having precedence over theirs. I have observed that they have raised further points than those which appear in the terms of my Amendment, but I think and hope that the hon. Gentlemen agree with me that the Amendment which I have put upon the Paper in fact covers the other points referred to in their Amendments. [''Hear, hear!''] I observe that my hon. Friend the Member for Kirkcaldy desired to include in the Inquiry the relations of the British authorities in South Africa to the preparations in view of the raid. I believe that my Amendment would include that. The Inquiry would be entirely defective if it did not include it, but I imagine that the word ''circumstances'' covers that completely. Of course, no circumstances can be more important with reference to the raid than the knowledge of the authorities—the Imperial authorities, whether in the colony or at home—as to the character of that incursion. [''Hear, hear!''] Therefore, I hope that there is no doubt in the matter, otherwise I should certainly have desired to have included express words on the subject. It is thoroughly understood that the word ''circumstances,'' which is a general word, will include an Inquiry into the co-operation with the raid of anybody, whether colonial authorities or Imperial authorities, or anybody outside them, because we want to know the whole history of the matter. [''Hear, hear!''] That is why I prefer the general word ''circumstances'' to any limiting words which would appear to restrain rather than to extend the Inquiry. [''Hear, hear!''] I so read those words, and if that be so I think that the object of my hon. Friend the Member for Kirkcaldy and that of the hon. Member for King's Lynn will be met by my Amendment. [''Hear, hear!''] That is, I take it, the general understanding on the subject. [''Hear, hear!''] With reference to the words of the Resolution relating to counsel, I entirely approve of giving the Committee power to determine how far it is convenient to employ counsel in the matter. That, I think, is a useful provision. With reference to the questions just now asked by my hon. Friend the Member for Northampton, as to the administration of the oath, I think that that ought to be left to the discretion of the Committee. I understand from the authorities of the House that a Committee of the House of Commons has absolute power to administer the oath in cases where it thinks fit, and I believe that was done in the case of the Honduras loan. In the case of Mr. Bradlaugh's Committee, which sat to consider a question of the malversation of the City accounts, there was an absolute instruction to administer the oath in all cases. That you can understand being done where there is a charge of malversation. If this Inquiry should include matters of a criminal character it would be necessary that the oath should be administered, and the Committee would unquestionably so administer it, but in reference to those parts of the Inquiry which relate to political considerations and to the nature of the future administration of the country, witnesses might be called to whom you would not think of administering the oath when you want their opinion, such witnesses, for instance, as great colonial governors, administrators of India, and so forth. [''Hear, hear!''] As the right hon. Gentleman has been good enough to say that he will accept this Amendment, I think that it would be better that it should be moved at the beginning of his Motion rather than where I have moved it, as then the administrative parts would come together. [''Hear, hear!'']

I therefore propose to move, after the word "into," in the second line, the insertion of these words :—

"the origin and circumstances of the incursion into the South African Republic by an armed force from the territories under the control of the company, and into."

The right hon. Gentleman will also see that it will be necessary, after the word "report," in the second line, to insert the words "to report thereon, and further to report." I beg to move my Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"]

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) hoped that the Inquiry would be thorough and complete, and would not be limited merely to complicity on the part of British subjects, but would include the great anti-British plot which had been working in South Africa during the last ten years and more, particularly during the last three years. No doubt a great effort was being made to pull down the great Englishman who had done so much to build up our dominion in South Africa. An Inquiry ought to extend to the causes of Mr. Rhodes's action in South Africa. ["Hear, hear."] If it were a complete and all-round Committee, those who had endeavoured to uphold British influence in South Africa would have nothing to suffer from the closest inquiry.

MR. LABOUCHERE said there were a few points he would like to have cleared up. The Colonial Secretary had said there was to be a full Inquiry into all the circumstances. He did not doubt that that was the desire of the right hon. Gentleman, but there were such things as technicalities, and he therefore desired to have a little more information about the scope of the Inquiry. First, would the genesis of the charter and the reliability of the statements made to the Government in respect to the concession on which the charter was based be included in the Inquiry? He thought the action of the Chartered Company in respect to the military operations which brought them into Matabeleland should also be included. Then, with regard to the raid into the Transvaal, the Inquiry should cover the origin of the raid, the connection of the company or of any of the officials of the company with the raid, and the expenditure of money belonging either to the company or to officials of the company with a view to provoking an outbreak in Johannesburg as an excuse, or a colourable excuse, for the raid. The next point was the connection, if not with the raid, with the preparations for the raid of any of the official authorities. He would also like to know whether the Inquiry would include the control by the London Board of the Chartered Company over their officials in South Africa, and particularly the control exercised by the gentlemen appointed by the Imperial Government when the charter was granted as a guarantee of good faith. The next point was the mode in which the capital of the company was obtained, and of the expenditure of that capital, together with the relations of the company with some other companies brought out under its auspices. There were a vast number of persons in England—foolish persons no doubt—who when they saw the words "Royal Charter" company, were under the impression that there was some species of legal guarantee from the Government that the expenses of the company would be well administered. There was no such legal guarantee, but there was a moral obligation on the part of the Government to see that nothing unfair was done; and, in view of the fact that a very large amount of money had been lost by some persons and made by some other persons, by the simple process of transferring it from the pockets of some persons to the pockets of other persons, and considering that this was a "Royal Charter" company, the public should have the right to go into the question of the capital, to see whether the reasons which induced people to subscribe the capital were fairly set forth.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight) said that a slight verbal alteration was needed in the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, or otherwise a branch of the proposed Inquiry would be inadvertently excluded. He suggested that the words "from the territories under the control of the company" should be omitted, as Mafeking, from which some of the armed forces started, was not under the control of the company, but was part of Her Majesty's dominions.

Sir W. HARCOURT said he had taken the words of the Amendment from the Queen's Speech, but he saw the point of the hon. and learned Gentleman, and agreed to the proposed correction of the Amendment.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir W. HARCOURT moved, after the word "into," to insert the words—

"the origin and circumstances of the incursion into the South African Republic by an armed force, and into."

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put and agreed to.

Another Amendment made by inserting, after the word "report," the words "thereon and further to report."

Mr. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said he had an Amendment on the Paper to include in the Inquiry "the relations of the British authorities in South Africa to the preparations in view of the raid," and he should move the addition of the words at a subsequent stage, unless he received an assurance that the reference as it stood covered the point.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: That point is covered.

Mr. DALZIEL said his desire was that there should be an Inquiry into the failure on the part of our representatives in different parts of South Africa to inform Her Majesty's Government of the preparations for the raid, but as that was to be included in the Inquiry he had nothing more to say.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said he had also put down an Amendment to secure that, not only the action of the South Africa Company, but the action of our representatives in South Africa in connection with the raid, should be inquired into, and he was glad that the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition covered his point. He had heard with satisfaction the full and ample statement of the Colonial Secretary. By it the right hon. Gentleman had established another claim on the confidence of the House, and he hoped that the promise of the right hon. Gentleman that the Inquiry should be full and complete would be received with satisfaction by every Member of the House.

Sir ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said it was an extraordinary thing that this Inquiry was not held at a much earlier stage, and he regretted that, owing to necessity, it would be still further postponed for a period of four cr five months. Remembering what were the allegations which had been made, without the slightest foundation, no doubt, against the Colonial Office and others who ought to be perfectly clear from this charge, the necessity for postponement would not be regretted by himself alone. He hoped that the existence of this Inquiry would not be the cause of a postponement of the decision by the Attorney General as to what should be done in regard to others concerned in this raid. He was not at all in favour of political prosecutions, or of severe punishments for political offences; but he was strongly opposed to there being two classes of persons in this country—one class, of very great influence, authority, and wealth, who escaped punishment—[*cheers*]—and another class of limited capacity—many of them young fellows who had risked their lives, though wrongly—who were to be punished. He would not specify names. It might be that Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Beit were perfectly innocent. But it was not fair to postpone the decision, nor would it be fair that the existence of a Committee of this kind and its inquiries should be the means of absolving from criminal prosecution persons who had not risked their lives while others had. There were two courses which the Government might take, and there was much to be said for either. One was to extend a political amnesty to those who had been punished, and the other was to see that there should be no partiality in dealing with persons. He did not suggest for a moment that the Attorney General was a person at all likely to do any injustice in the matter; and he recognised that the hon. and learned Gentleman was entitled to say that he was not prepared to give any answer at the moment, though he was not quite justified in resenting the question. But it was not fair play that the men who had been sentenced should remain in prison, if others, who were guilty and who slunk away and did not face the enemy in battle, were to escape punishment. [*Cheers.*]

*MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff) said that he did not wish to disturb the general harmony, but he looked with some suspicion on the agreement which had been come to between the two Front Benches since it had received the benediction of the hon. Member for Northampton. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Member was very anxious that the Inquiry should go very far back. But the House was also entitled to know down to what date the Inquiry was to be brought—whether it was to include the administration of the Chartered Company's territories since the military control was taken over by the Colonial Office. That was an important question, which concerned the House quite as much as the future of the Chartered Company. ["Hear, hear!"] He wished to know whether Sir Frederick Carrington was hampered by his instructions in getting such a force at the beginning as might have been used effectively to put down the rebellion before it had spread all over the country and desolated it. ["Hear, hear!"] The Leader of the Opposition made out an excellent case for not having a Committee of Inquiry at all. The right hon. Gentleman seemed glad that the Inquiry was put off for some four or five months; and the only reason why he himself accepted the Motion of the Colonial Secretary was that he firmly believed that if the Inquiry were put off for four or five months it was exceedingly unlikely that the Committee would ever meet at all. Next year there would be very much more important questions to discuss. By that time there might not be any of the Chartered Company's territory left for them to quarrel over. We might have to decide what was to be done to hold our own in South Africa, and to retain the respect and good will of the British colonists there. [*Cheers.*] What was there to learn from any Inquiry the Committee might make? He did not care what became of the Chartered Company now. It was useless for any Imperial purpose. It had had all its real powers taken away and centred in the Colonial Office; and what had become of the men who were its administrators? We knew what had become of Dr. Jameson, and as for Mr. Rhodes, he had been stripped of his high position as controller of Rhodesia and Prime Minister of Cape Colony. He was reduced to the rank of a private citizen. Was that not punishment enough for a man who aspired to rule all South Africa—a man who was petted and patted on the back by the Leader of the Opposition for conducting that incursion into Matabeleland which is now blamed by the hon. Member for Northampton? [*Cheers, and dissent from* Sir W. HARCOURT.] The right hon. Gentleman shook his head; but the Government of which the right hon. Gentleman was a Member took the greatest interest in Mr. Rhodes, made him a Privy Councillor, introduced him to the table of the Queen, and spoke of him as a man who had done great service to the Empire. ["Hear, hear!"] And yet those services were to be one of the subjects inquired into by the Parliamentary Committee. Mr. Rhodes's conduct had been inquired into by men who were much more nearly interested in his career than Members of the House of Commons—by the Parliament at the Cape; and that Parliament, while condemning Mr. Rhodes for using the money at his command in order to equip a force which might have gone to the assistance of the revolutionary party in Johannesburg, had emphatically declared that his was a high motive, and had refused to oust him from the Cape Parliament. [*Cheers.*] Of course Mr. Rhodes had a high motive. He only did what Lord Loch threatened to do a few years ago, and what he recently boasted of in the House of Lords. Lord Loch told President Kruger that if there were a revolution in Johannesburg, and if the Transvaal Government could not protect the lives and property of British citizens he (Lord Loch) would interfere, and he had assembled on the frontier of the Transvaal a force for the aid of British subjects. What else had Mr. Rhodes done? He was no party to the raid; and public opinion in his own country had pronounced strongly that no moral censure ought to be cast on these men for what had been done. The verdict of the Jury in the Jameson trial was that the prisoners were to be excused on account of the provocation given by the Transvaal Government. [*Cheers.*] That was the feeling of the bulk of the people in this country and South Africa, and the House would have to be careful how it put itself in conflict with the feeling of British colonists in South Africa, and how it excited strong feeling in this country with regard to the Transvaal by pressing for the further punishment of Mr. Rhodes. [*Cheers.*]

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.) thought that the promise made to him in June by the Colonial Secretary was not covered by the terms of the Motion, and suggested the addition of the words "and the origin and circumstances connected with the rising of the native races in Matabeleland."

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) feared that the Amendment of the right hon. Member for Monmouthshire might have the same limiting effect which had been pointed out as an objection to the Amendment of the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy. There was some danger of the Committee taking a technical view, and saying that, inasmuch as the origin and circumstances attending the incursion into the Transvaal were specifically mentioned, it was not permissible to inquire into the origin and circumstances attending the incursion two or three years ago into Matabeleland, on the principle *expressio unius est exclusio alterius.* He hoped the Secretary for the Colonies would give an assurance to the House as to the view of the Government on the point, and to enable him to do so he moved to insert words to cover an inquiry into the origin of the British South Africa Company.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Really, I think the hon. Member can hardly expect me to declare what the Committee will do. I can only express my own opinion, and would say generally that I do not think the House would be wise to enlarge this Inquiry to such an extent as would make the Inquiry a perfect farce. It is a little late to go back on the origin of the Chartered Company. That, at all events, we need not inquire into, provided we have full power to inquire into the way in which they have used the charter, and whether they deserve to be continued in the charter. To do that, the whole question of its administration is opened up by the terms of reference, and, therefore, I think every single point made by the hon. Member for Northampton would be included except the genesis of the charter. That being before there was any administration, might be held to be outside the Inquiry. May I say, also, that I have not the slightest doubt that the origin and circumstances attending the Matabele insurrection are included under any inquiry into the administration of the Chartered Company.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) pointed out the danger of specifying particular subjects of inquiry, because they had a tendency to exclude other things by inference. He thought the words of the Colonial Secretary, which were couched in general terms, were the safest means of obtaining the object, which was a thorough, broad, and complete Inquiry.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said this subject was of tremendous interest to Irishmen. It had to do with the question of insurrection, of endeavouring to overturn established authority, and it had to do afterwards with the treatment of prisoners engaged in such insurrectionary movement. He desired to say that Her Majesty's Ministers, with the exception of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, had condemned in advance the course they were taking to-day by their action eight years ago, on the occasion of the charges and allegations made against certain Irish Members. On the question of a Committee of Inquiry into those charges and allegations, this was the language used by the First Lord of the Treasury, the late Mr. W. H. Smith:—

> "Apart from other considerations, we are of opinion that the passions excited by Debates in this House during the last four or five years render it hardly possible for Members to divest themselves altogether of party prejudices and feeling, and to enter into a judicial Inquiry of this character in a judicial spirit."

And he added:—

> "The issues are tremendous to the character of the House and those concerned in this great trial."

What course did they propose to follow on the present occasion? The issues here, too, were tremendous. Party passion had been inflamed, and yet they proposed that Gentlemen who had been engaged in that party conflict should be both judge and jury. This point about judge and jury was the point taken by the Colonial Secretary himself. The right hon. Gentleman's position was much stronger than that of the Government of the day, for he said :—

> "A Committee of the House of Commons would have to undertake to be judge and jury too."

So they would be in the case of Dr. Jameson and his associates. The right hon. Gentleman proceeded :—

> "I may say at once that I differ from many hon. Members of the House on one point"

—and there he occupied a more logical position than his Government—

> "I am sorry the Government did not grant a Committee. I am perfectly convinced the result would have been so unsatisfactory and incomplete that it would have prepared the way to a unanimous assent to a different kind of investigation."

The Solicitor General of that day, the hon. and learned Member for Plymouth, gave the reasons which, he said, rendered the House of Commons an inefficient body to try the question. He quoted from the charges of *The Times* these words :—

> "They have, however, revealed nearly all the Members of the first Home Rule Ministry—Mr. Parnell himself, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Arthur O'Connor, Mr. Healy, Mr. Biggar, the Messrs. Redmond, Mr. William O'Brien, and Mr. Davitt—in trade and traffic were avowed dynamiters and known contrivers of murder."

That being the case, the Irish Members were put to an expense of £25,000 to defend their character before a judicial court, upon the plea that this House was incompetent and incapable. Exactly the same class of consideration would arise before this Committee. Every Member who took a part in it would be more or less a partisan ; his decisions must of necessity be affected by Party considerations, and the decisions would be arrived at by a majority composed altogether of Members of one Party, and the other Party would say that it was a Tory finding or a Liberal finding as the case might be. He expressed no opinion as to the question between a Committee and a Commission, but, looking at the events of 1888, he thought that the Government had taken an entirely different course now from the previous occasion. Was the Attorney General of the day disabled from sitting on the Committee ; was the hon. and learned Member for Plymouth, who defended Dr. Jameson, disabled from sitting on the Committee ; and, if so, was it because they had been engaged on one side or the other in the trial ? Were the Government endeavouring to establish that this Committee could be anything else but a body of partisans, because they would exclude two legal gentlemen who had been engaged in the trial ? If the House was competent to make this Inquiry, every Member was competent to sit on it, and the suggestion that they could add anything to the deliverance which the Committee would make, by reason of the fact that they made selections from particular quarters of the House, was to strike a blow at the whole principle of the appointment of Select Committees.

Sir H. HAVELOCK-ALLAN (Durham, S.E.) maintained that this was a great national question. The question which the House was going to inquire into was not the limited question of the administration of the Chartered Company, but the greater political question as to what should be the composition of the future Government of South Africa, how it should be administered and composed, and what the governing authority should be. The Inquiry to be undertaken was akin to that which took place after the battle of Plassey in 1757, when the administration of India was in abeyance, and when the House called upon a Select Committee to decide how India should be administered in future. It was not a question which rested with the House of Commons alone ; it was a national question, and it ought to be treated as such. On this account the Committee should not consist of Members of the House of Commons alone, but should, as in other great questions of Constitutional importance, be composed of Members of the other House also. There were impartial men in that House, who, by long years of experience, had acquaintance with the affairs of South Africa. Why, then, should they not include within the scope of the Membership of the Committee a number of Members of the Upper House? He asked whether it was permissible for him to move an Amendment in this sense?

*MR. SPEAKER said it would not be in order. The House had already passed the first line, which committed the Bill to a Select Committee of that House.

SIR H. HAVELOCK-ALLAN: Can I add as a separate clause at the end: "And that this Select Committee have power to add to its number, for the purposes of, and in the course of this Inquiry, certain selected Members of the other House of Parliament (Peers)."

*MR. SPEAKER: That would be an Amendment contradicting what has already been agreed.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked whether the wording of the reference would leave the Inquiry open to consider the questions connected with the raising of the capital, the distribution of the shares of the Chartered Company and their manipulation, or would it simply be confined to the administration of the affairs of Rhodesia? The Committee ought to have that power.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have answered that question in reply to the hon. Member for Northampton. Undoubtedly, the word "administration" is a wide word, and it would cover that.

Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Ordered, that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the origin and circumstances of the incursion into the South African Republic by an armed force, and into the administration of the British South Africa Company, and to report thereon, and further to report what alterations are desirable in the Government of the territories under the control of the company.

Ordered, that the Committee have leave to hear counsel to such extent as they shall see fit, and have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

*Sir H. Havelock-Allan.*

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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### TRUCK BILL.

Order read for resuming adjourned Debate on Amendment (27th July) proposed on consideration of the Bill, as amended by the Standing Committee.

Clause 26,—

DEDUCTIONS OR PAYMENTS IN RESPECT OF DAMAGED GOODS.

(1.) An employer shall not make any contract with any workman for any deduction from the gross sum contracted to be paid by the employer to the workman, or for any payment to the employer by the workman for or in respect of bad or negligent work or injury to the materials or other property of the employer, unless—

(*a*) the contract is embodied in a printed notice affixed at the pit head or at the entrance of a factory or workshop, and in such parts of a mine, factory, or workshop as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines or Factories may direct or approve, and constantly kept so affixed in such a position that it can be easily read by the persons employed in the mine, factory, or workshop; or the contract is in writing, signed by the workman; and

(*b*) the deduction or payment to be made under the contract does not exceed the actual or estimated damage or loss occasioned to the employer by the act or omission of the workman, or of some person over whom he has control, or for whom he has by the contract agreed to be responsible; and

(*c*) the amount of the deduction or payment is fair and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

(2.) An employer shall not make any such deduction or receive any such payment unless—

(*a*) the deduction or payment is made in pursuance of, or in accordance with, such a contract as aforesaid; and

(*b*) particulars in writing showing the acts or omissions in respect of which the deduction or payment is made and the amount thereof are supplied to the workman on each occasion when a deduction or payment is made.

(3.) This section shall apply to the case of a shop assistant in like manner as it applies to the case of a workman.

Amendment proposed (27th July) in Paragraph (*b*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "actual or estimated."

Question proposed, "That the words 'actual or estimated' stand part of the Bill."

Debate resumed.

MR. REGINALD McKENNA (Monmouth, N.) said that he would not proceed further with the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL (Stockton) moved the omission of Sub-section (3), in order to raise a very important question on the whole clause. The clause proposed to exempt employers who deducted from the wages of workmen the cost of the value of damaged goods. This was a new aspect of the Truck Laws. In the original Act of 1831, he did not find a reference to the power of employers to deduct for damaged goods, nor in the Act of 1887. There was no doubt of the fact that the law had decided that the employers had the right to deduct, but this clause and this sub-section carried the law very much further than was ever intended. He understood that the Home Secretary was legislating practically in favour of persons engaged in trade where the goods manufactured ranged from a penny to a sixpence and a shilling. But this Bill would refer and would control every trade throughout the United Kingdom. The heavy industries of the country would also be affected. Engineering, shipbuilding, iron moulders, joiners, iron and steel workers would be seriously affected by the clause. Those trades were paid more or less by piece work, and in the iron and steel trade the bulk of the workmen were paid by tonnage. Under this sub-section workmen would be liable to be fined in respect of damage done to goods in their hands. They might be made to pay the value of the goods in addition to the loss of wages which they would incur. Then, under this clause, a contractor would become responsible for every act or omission on the part of his workmen, and would be responsible for all goods that were damaged. The clause would have far-reaching effects. A man might be called upon to do some work on the spur of the moment, and not being used to it he might make a mistake and damage the goods. In these circumstances it would be cruel to charge him with the cost of the article. It was possible that a clause like this might cause the total suspension of some of our great industries. He begged to move that the sub-section be omitted.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) said that the hon. Member was under a misapprehension as to the effect of the clause. The Bill did not purpose in any part of it to render legal anything that was not illegal. It was a limiting Bill. Conditions were to be imposed for the protection of the workmen, and to enable inspectors to discover the perpetration of anything which it was improper to do. The law was not carried a bit further by this clause, except so far as it was carried further in the interests of the workmen themselves. In cases where he was satisfied that the workmen in a particular industry did not require the additional protection which it was proposed to give, the Secretary of State would have a power of exemption. It would not be necessary to insist upon the application of provisions which the men themselves should deem unnecessary. The customs of trade would not be interfered with. The liability of workmen would not be increased, and they would have this protection, that a contract would be illegal unless it was fair and reasonable, having regard to all the aspects of the case. The intention and effect of the clause were exactly the opposite of what the hon. Member imagined, and therefore he trusted that the hon. Member would not press his Amendment.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 3,—

### DEDUCTIONS OR PAYMENTS IN RESPECT OF MATERIALS.

(1.) An employer shall not make any contract with any workman for any deduction from the gross sum contracted to be paid by the employer to the workman, or for any payment to the employer by the workman for, or in respect of, the use or supply of materials, tools or machines, standing room, light, heat, or any other thing to be done or provided by the employer in relation to the work or labour of the workman unless—

(*a*) the contract is embodied in a printed noice affixed at the pit head or at the entrance of a factory or workshop, and in such parts of a mine, factory, or workshop as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines or Factories may direct or approve, and constantly kept so affixed in such a position that it can be easily read by the persons employed in the mine, factory, or workshop; or the contract is in writing, signed by the workman; and

(*b*) the sum to be paid or deducted under the contract in respect of materials, tools or machines, standing room, light, heat, or any other thing, does not exceed, in the case of materials or tools supplied to the workman, the actual or estimated cost thereof to the employer, or in the case of the use of machinery, light, heat, or any other thing in this section mentioned a fair and reasonable rent or allowance, having regard to the all circumstances of the case.

(2.) An employer shall not make any such deduction or receive any such payment unless—

(*a*) the deduction or payment is made in pursuance of, and in accordance with, such a contract as aforesaid; and

(*b*) particulars in writing showing the things in respect of which the deduction or payment is made and the amount thereof are supplied to the workman on each occasion when a deduction or payment is made.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "gross."

Amendment agreed to.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Sub-section (1), before the words "any other thing to be done," to insert the words "for and in respect of."

Amendment agreed to.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in Paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words—

"contract is embodied in a printed notice affixed at the pit head, or at the entrance of a factory or workshop,"

and to insert instead thereof the words—

"terms of the contract are contained in a printed notice kept constantly affixed at such place or places open to workmen, and in such a position that it may be easily seen, read, and copied by any person whom it affects."

*MR. LIONEL HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley) said that the question of the sufficiency to constitute a contract of a mere publication by affixing a notice was a matter of such material importance that he thought it right it should be raised again. The principle of the Bill of 1831 and of this Bill as originally introduced was that an employer, if he wished to go outside the provisions of the Act, should only be able to do so by a written agreement with his men. That was a safeguard which the Bill of 1831 established, and hon. Members who objected to its continuance ought at least to produce some specific instances of inconvenience or of injury to trade resulting from its existence. But if the interests of workmen could be safeguarded by any other really adequate method, he should not lay any great stress on the importance of the mere fact that an agreement was in writing. If the employers objected to signed agreements, and another system could be devised which would give adequate security to the position of the workmen, there was no reason why the system of written agreements should not be discarded for a newer method. There was, besides, ample proof in the evidence given before the Labour Commission that the mere requiring of a signed agreement was utterly inoperative and a mere farce. But if the House were not going to insist on a signed agreement, if they were going to alter the traditions of Truck legislation which had existed for 65 years, surely they were not going to make the contract a less effective one, or give the workmen less effective security than under the existing law. Yet that would be the result of the proposal which the Home Secretary had, he thought somewhat too readily, accepted. It introduced a new principle which had never been incorporated in labour legislation. The only parallel he knew of was in the Common Carriers Act, which allowed a notice to have the force of a contract in the case of certain special articles of special value. Such a proposal was wholly inappropriate to a contract entered into between employer and workman, and to his mind the clause would set a most injurious precedent. It might deprive the workman of the safeguards given him under the Employers' Liability Act. It was intended that the mere fixing of a notice should bind the workman to all the provisions contained in it, even though they had never come to his knowledge. In other words he was to be bound by a contract which was not a contract, but a mere fiction of Parliament. Under the present law, when employers wished to escape the provisions of the Employers' Liability Act by fixing up a notice, they had to prove that that notice had come to the knowledge of the workman. The fact that the workman continued in his employment after the notice had been fixed made it a presumption that he acquiesced; but it was only a presumption, and whether or not there was a binding contract was a matter for legal proof, and for the jury to decide. But by this clause the workman was to be bound by a contract which really only existed in the imagination of Parliament, because there could be no contract unless there were consenting parties, and a man could not consent to a notice he had never seen. He had no wish to harass employers by asking the House to insist on a written agreement if the employers were averse to it; but he did maintain that it was only fair and just and essential to the working of the Act that the workman should be seized of the terms of the agreement he has to enter into, and he thought this sub-section failed to secure that result. He would suggest that this matter might be met by the addition of some words he had on the Paper—namely, after the word "act," to insert—

> "and a printed or written copy of this notice is also delivered by the employer to the workman at the time the contract of employment is made."

Of course the Home Secretary had not the slightest wish that the position of the workman should be less effectively guarded under this Bill than under the Act of 1831. Of course the objection might be raised that the words he had suggested would make the clause out of line with former clauses, but he imagined that could be got over in another place. He noticed that the hon. Member for North Monmouthshire proposed to meet this point by an Amendment he had down to Clause 6. If the Home Secretary would favourably consider that Amendment he would withdraw his, but he thought the proper place for these words was where he had suggested. The delivery of a copy of the notice ought to be an integral condition of the contract of employment. He hoped the Home Secretary would now or later on consider this matter.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY thought it was very inconvenient that the House should be discussing a second time what was practically the Amendment disposed of the other night. It was arranged in Grand Committee that, as an alternative, this public notice should be put up for the information of all concerned. He then stated that he would loyally adhere to the decision of the Committee, and he must continue to adhere to it. These clauses must be identical in their form, otherwise the House would be stultifying itself. He saw an enormous advantage in this notice, and that was that the inspectors who went about the works would see at once whether there were any rules and regulations as to fines and so forth which in their opinion were unreasonable. The object of his Amendment was that every workman should be possessed of the fullest information as to the conditions under which he was to work. He hoped that the House would accept his Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. H. H. ASQUITH (Fife, E.) said that the question was whether the clause sufficiently safeguarded the workmen by bringing their attention to the conditions by a general notice rather than by serving each man with a separate printed notice of the conditions under which he was to work. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to make it compulsory upon every employer to serve each of his workmen individually with a copy of the notice containing the conditions under which he would have to work. ["Hear, hear!"]

Mr. JAMES KENYON (Bury, Lancashire) thought that the right hon. and learned Gentleman the late Home Secretary attached far too much importance to the serving of a notice upon each individual workman. The fines to which workmen were subject were very small in amount, and they were put into a box and distributed among the local charities. The proposal of the right hon. and learned Gentleman would put the employer to a large and unnecessary expense. ["Hear, hear!"]

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) said that he had to thank the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary for his promise to favourably consider this proposal when they came to consider Clause 6. ["Hear."]

MR. G. WHITELEY (Stockport) also considered that the fines inflicted upon the workmen were very small, and were distributed among the sick or disposed of in other charitable ways.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. McKENNA moved, in paragraph (*b*) Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "actual or estimated." He said it was a general practice in book-keeping for an employer to add to the net cost of an article a certain amount for office expenditure and for capital expenditure—perhaps 10 per cent. on each. Consequently the estimated cost was not the real cost, and the ambiguity of these words "actual or estimated" led one to the conclusion that neither the real cost nor the estimated cost was the one intended.

MR. LOUGH, in supporting the Amendment, expressed a hope that the Home Secretary would not go back on the intimation he gave that he was willing to omit these words. If they adopted the Amendment, it was quite easy to make Clause 2 agree with it in another place. These words appeared to him to be perfectly needless, and to go a good deal further than the right hon. Gentleman intended they should go.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said this was really rather a different matter from Clause 2. It did not stand on the same footing as the words in Sub-section (*d*) Clause 2. He ventured to point out the necessity of these words when the matter was under discussion in Grand Committee. The House would observe that it was the case of materials or tools supplied to a workman. It might very likely be that the actual or estimated cost could not be ascertained absolutely. It might be that the materials or tools had been bought long before, and it would be unfair to the workman that they should put upon him the actual cost in cases in which the actual amount which was going to be charged could not be found. He thought it rather better to have the words left in.

*Mr. James Kenyon.*

MR. ASQUITH said that he thought there was a clear distinction between this clause and the preceding one. It would be impossible in many cases to say the actual damage, and he would recommend his hon. Friend not to persist in his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved, in paragraph (*b*) Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "allowance," and to insert instead thereof the word "charge."

Amendment agreed to; clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5,—

RECOVERY OF PAYMENTS OR DEDUCTIONS.

Any workman or shop assistant may recover any sum deducted by or paid to his employer contrary to this Act, provided that an action for recovery be raised within three months from the date of the deduction or payment sought to be recovered, and that where he has consented to or acquiesced in any such deduction or payment, he shall only recover the excess which has been deducted or paid over the amount, if any, which the court may find to have been fair and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved to leave out the words "an action for recovery be raised within three," and to insert instead thereof the words "proceedings for such recovery are commenced within six."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. McKENNA moved to leave out the words—

> "and that where he has consented to or acquiesced in any such deduction or payment, he shall only recover the excess which has been deducted or paid over the amount, if any, which the court may find to have been fair and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case."

These words, he said, were clearly contradictory of the whole spirit of the

Truck Acts. As he understood the Acts, they were passed because it was believed that the workman was not a free party to the contract, and if he was not a free party to a contract he was equally not a free party in his acquiescence or consent to any deduction which was made in his wages. His main objection to these words was that they gave legal recognition to a contract declared illegal. An employer if he contracted to deduct or deducted any amount from the wages paid to his workmen was committing an illegal act unless he did so under the terms provided for by this Bill. The employer having committed an illegal act was, under these words, allowed to retain to himself some portion of the benefit of that illegal act. That was practically an incitement to an employer to break the terms of this Bill. Every incentive ought to be placed in the way of the workman to see that the provisions of the Act were carried out, and every incentive ought to be removed from the employer for breaking the provisions of the Bill. If this provision was left in this clause, in nine cases out of 10 the workman would have no incentive to bring a breach of the Act before the inspector.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL hoped the hon. Member would not press this Amendment. He thought the provision represented what was fair between masters and workmen under certain contracts. The case was this: It was, on the face of the clause, that a workman had consented or acquiesced in a deduction of the payment. It would be a question of fact which the Judge must find that in fact the workman had consented to or acquiesced in a deduction of the payment. He went to the Court, and, of course, the law was that the master was wrong and he could not succeed. But he thought it would be an unwise thing that a workman should have the temptation of hanging back, having consented, for a long time, and then coming into Court and getting the whole of the deduction. The outside that justice demanded was that the parties should be put in the position authorised by the law. If he thought there was anything in the point made by the hon. and learned Gentleman that the workman would be thereby induced not to bring the matter to the notice of the inspector, he would hesitate in recommending these words, but it seemed to him that exactly the opposite inference would operate in his mind. The right course was that the parties should be put in the position in which they ought to have been put had they been fully alive to what their respective rights were at the time of making the contract. It was not the case that these words were a legal recognition of a contract declared illegal.

*SIR C. DILKE said that from the facts that came before the Labour Commission, it was clear that the provision would not affect the larger employers of labour so much as the great number of small employers, many of whom made money out of the practice.

MR. W. R. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said a large number of representatives of the workmen were present at the meetings of the Grand Committee when the Bill was considered, but no objection whatever was raised by them to the provision.

MR. McKENNA asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn. Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6,—

PRODUCTION OF CONTRACT.

(1.) Every person who has made any contract purporting or intending to operate as a contract under this Act, shall, on demand in writing by one of Her Majesty's inspectors of factories or of mines, produce the contract or a true copy thereof at any convenient time and place to be named by the inspector, and the inspector shall be at liberty to take a copy of the same or of any part thereof, and any workman or shop assistant who is party to any such contract shall be entitled on request to obtain from his employer free of charge a copy of the contract or of the document in which it is embodied.

(2.) If any person fails to comply with this section he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved in Sub-section (1) to leave out the word "person," ("Every person") and to insert instead thereof "employer."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. McKENNA moved in Sub-section (1) after the words "any part thereof and," to insert the words "the employer of."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. McKENNA moved in Sub-section (1) to leave out the words—

"shall be entitled on request to obtain from his employer free of charge a copy of the contract or of the document in which it is embodied,"

and to insert instead thereof, the words—

"shall at the time of making the contract give the workmen or shop assistants a copy of the contract."

He said it was unnecessary to detain the House, as the matter involved had been already amply discussed.

MR. G. WHITELEY said he thought the Amendment was entirely unnecessary and entirely unobjectionable. [*Laughter.*] Employers had no objection, could have no objection, to a copy of the contract being given to their workmen, but was it really necessary if other conditions were carried out? It seemed to him that some people rated the intelligence of the workmen very low indeed. ["Hear, hear!] The contracts were to be posted up at the entrance to the factory or workplace, where the workpeople could not fail to see them, and to suggest that in these days of Board Schools the workpeople could not read, and would not be sufficiently alive to their own interests as not to read the notices, was to do them an injustice. ["Hear, hear!" *and Laughter.*] He thought there was some force in the view expressed the other day by the hon. Member for Belfast—that the publication of those contracts in the face of the world was in itself some guarantee that they would be fair and reasonable. ["Hear, hear!"] During the last 24 hours he had discussed the matter with two prominent Trades Union leaders, and they told him that while they had looked upon the terms of the original Bill as impracticable and unworkable, as many hon. Members had done, they considered the present Bill, as amended, eminently workable. ["Hear, hear!"

MR. ASQUITH said that for a large number of people—both employers and workmen—protection of the kind afforded by this Bill was doubtless unnecessary, in consequence of their excellent organisations, and of the respect the parties entertained for one another. But the House was legislating by this Measure chiefly for people who were unorganised, such as those employed in shops and small factories. ["Hear, hear!"] The Bill was intended for those who had not the protection which they ought to have. ["Hear, hear!"]

*SIR C. DILKE said the Bill now covered the case of the shop-assistant as well as that of the workman, and that through the acceptance of this Amendment they would part with the Bill under happier auspices than they would otherwise have done.

Amendment agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that as the House desired it, he moved to add after the words last inserted the words—

"a workman or a shop assistant who is a party to any such contract shall be entitled, on request, to obtain from his employer, free of charge, a copy of the contract or of the notice containing its terms."

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to strike out the words "on request." It might appear to him to be a very simple matter but——

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, interposing, said they had already given the workman a copy. Surely he could go and ask for another.

MR. BURNS was glad he had made a mistake, for it was now clear that it was obligatory on the part of the master to give the workman a copy in the first instance, and on request to give him another.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. PICKERSGILL proposed to add after the words last inserted the words—

"(2) Every employer who has made any contract purporting or intending to operate as a contract under Section 1 of this Act shall keep a register of deductions or payments, and shall enter therein every deduction or payment for or in respect of any fine purporting to be made under any such contract, specifying the amount and the nature of the act or omission in respect of which the fine was imposed, and this register shall be at all times open to inspection by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Factories or of Mines."

The safeguard he proposed applied to fines only, and not to the other deductions sanctioned by the Bill. He limited it to fines because he thought it might be made clear that fines were regarded as standing on a footing altogether different from the other classes of deductions, and that there were not a few Members who would be glad to abolish fines altogether. However, that course had not been adopted, and they were in some respects going to give a new lease to the practice of fining. Before 1889 it was at least doubtful whether fining was not illegal, and since then the practice of fining had occupied a very uncertain and ill-assured position. Now, by the Bill, they were going not to legalise, but to regularise the practice of fining, and whilst it was perfectly true they were proposing to impose certain restrictions upon fining, they would, at the same time, raise the practice of fining so restricted to a position which it had never yet occupied on the statute-book. That being so, it was obviously very desirable that they should take all reasonable safeguards against a practice which was beyond doubt liable to abuse. He proposed, therefore, that every employer should be required to keep a register in which he should enter every fine which was imposed, specifying the amount of the fine and the nature of the act or omission in respect of which the fine was imposed. What objection could there be to the proposal? They need not consider the case of the bad employers; they would not find any advocates or defenders in the House. But it had been said on behalf of good employers that fining was essential to the maintenance of discipline amongst large bodies of workmen. He did not admit that view at all, but accepting it for the moment, he replied that the entry of a fine in a book which was required by statute to be kept would certainly not detract from the impressiveness of the effect of the fine. If he said that the keeping of a register was impracticable, he should say that if fines were so frequent and so lightly regarded both by employer and employed, they had the clearest evidence that the practice of fining must be a most inefficient instrument in the maintenance of discipline.

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said the keeping of the register would entail a great deal of trouble to the employer, and he did not think that, on a poll, the workmen would be found to care much for the proposal.

*Sir C. DILKE regarded the Amendment as one worthy of more consideration than the Home Secretary had given to it. Such registers were kept in Germany and in other countries, and he understood that many of the best employers here kept fine-books so that they could see that the fines did not exceed a certain amount.

Mr. GEOFFREY DRAGE (Derby) said that it appeared to him that if the Amendment were adopted, it would be possible to obtain a Return from the Home Office of the amount and nature of the fines. If the amount was found to be large, and the workmen thought they suffered a great injustice, it would be possible for Parliament to pass a law such as existed in Germany and Austria, limiting the amount of fines to one day's or to a half-day's wages. ["Hear, hear!"] If, on the contrary, the amount of fines proved to be as insignificant as they knew it was in many trades, and as they hoped it would prove in other trades, it would be for them to consider whether it would not be well to abolish fines altogether. To attempt to abolish at a stroke of the pen a system so long-established, and which had some good points, was sure to fail. He could have wished that right hon. Gentlemen on either side had gone a little further and excluded "deductions" from the Amendment. He believed that deductions as much as fines tended to embitter the relations between employers and employed. There was further this important consideration—it was impossible for any house manager to make the two ends meet on an income which was uncertain. He made an appeal, which was never made to that House in vain, on behalf of the women and children.

Mr. JOHN BURNS thought that a register of fines should be kept. He believed that at Whiteley's they found it desirable to dispense with fines, because it was discovered that, with 3,000 or 4,000 people, to keep a register of fines was a very laborious task. That experience had taught that firm to do away with fines altogether, and if a large firm of that description could manage without fines, he did not see why smaller firms could not do away with them. If they could not do that the next best thing was to register them. Why did he urge that? A workman or woman might be subjected to persecution; he or she was "spotted," as it was called. There was no defence unless there was a register of fines. If a man complained that he was being persecuted, his persecutor escaped in this way: He might go to the employer who would say, "Oh, I cannot be bothered," but if the man could say to the master, "I would advise you to look at the register of fines, and see the trivial offences for which I have been fined," the employer would at once, by looking at the list, be able to diagnose and ascertain whether there was any breach of the discipline of the factory. ["Hear, hear!"] He might give an instance of a young person being fined 2s. 6d. at the discretion of the shopwalker or buyer for "gossiping." A girl might be disposed to look at a young man longer than she should. He reciprocated that. [*Laughter.*] The young man wanted a pair of gloves at 1s. 10d., and in such a case the fines might be piled on. The register of such fines would concentrate attention, so that the fines would become of a purely disciplinary industrial character. He appealed to the Home Secretary to round off the Bill by making it obligatory to have a register of fines.

Mr. BOUSFIELD said he considered that the Bill placed a difficulty in the way of indiscriminate fines. He thought that the Bill went a long way in the right direction. He had been acquainted with workshops like the hon. Member for Battersea, but not to the same extent, and he thought he would agree there were two classes of British workmen — one who cared for the interests of the employer and the other who did not care a rap. There was no practical way of checking the conduct of the latter class except by fine. It was said there was the alternative of dismissal, but that was very harsh. If every fine was to be entered in the books it would give infinite trouble.

Mr. J. W. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) suggested that the fines should be turned into a fund for the benefit of the workpeople.

Mr. LOUGH supported the Amendment, and denied that it was impossible to do without fines. He thought that if it was worth while keeping an analogous record in the Courts, that it was worth while doing so in a private business.

Mr. FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) appealed to his right hon. Friend the Home Secretary to accept this Amendment. He did so on the same grounds on which the hon. Member for South Hackney had opposed the Amendment—namely, that in the best regulated establishments in this country there was in actual operation a system of putting down fines in books and bringing those books to the knowledge of the responsible persons in the factory. ["Hear, hear!"] It was in the small and irregular establishments, where there was petty tyranny and oppression of the humblest class of workers, unskilled men, women, and children, that this system did not operate. The Amendment would be of great advantage to the labouring community, and he thought this was the general opinion on both sides of the House. ["Hear, hear!"]

Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that when he opposed the Amendment he did so because he feared it would cast a vexatious burden on the employers of this country and would not achieve those ends which they desired to achieve. As, however, there as a general feeling in favour of the Amendment, he would accept it. ["Hear, hear!"] One or two verbal Amendments might be necessary.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. JOHN BRIGG (York, W.R., Keighley) moved, after the words last inserted, to insert the following subsection:—

"3 A contract or any documents under this Act may be in writing or print, or partly in writing and partly in print."

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY agreed with the object of the hon. Member, and was quite willing to make it perfectly clear that this covered writing. He understood, however, that under the Interpretations Act it would mean writing or print. He would take care to make it clear.

*SIR C. DILKE said this matter was rather fully debated in the Grand Committee, and the late Home Secretary and other lawyers thought it would make the matter less clear to insert these words. It appeared to be clear under the Interpretation Act that that which the hon. Member sought to make clear would be the law.

MR. BRIGG asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 7,—

EXEMPTION OF CONTRACT FROM STAMP DUTY.

A contract entered into in any part of the United Kingdom under the provisions of this Act shall not be liable to stamp duty.

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY moved to leave out the words "in any part of the United Kingdom," as he thought they were unnecessary, and would have a restricting effect.

Amendment agreed to.

The remaining clauses having been agreed to,

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY asked the House to agree to the Third Reading of the Bill.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY said that he had been in communication with the officials of the Northern Counties' Amalgamated Association of Weavers, who said that they had got what they wanted in the Home Secretary's clause, and were perfectly satisfied with the Bill as amended. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. J. SAMUEL thought the Measure would have a most undesirable effect on many of the artisans of this country. The cotton spinners were satisfied because they could contract themselves out of this Bill, and therefore complimented the Government.

MR. G. WHITELEY said they were in the same position as every other trade. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. J. SAMUEL said there were thousands of workmen who were not, as powerful trade societies were, able to defend themselves, and this Bill would, in his opinion, have a very injurious effect on such men.

Bill read the Third time amid cheers, and passed.

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## UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

ISSUE OF MONEY OUT OF CONSOLIDATED FUND FOR PURPOSES OF ACT.

(1.) The Treasury shall issue out of the Consolidated Fund or the growing produce thereof such sums not exceeding in the whole the sum of three million pounds as may be required by a Secretary of State for defraying the costs of the construction of the Uganda Railway, whether incurred before or after the passing of this Act.

(2.) Before any money is issued under this section, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Treasury an estimate, with such details as may be required by them, of the expenditure and period for and within which it is proposed to expend that money.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) asked whether the sum of three millions which this Bill empowered the Treasury to spend involved the cost of any military expedition which might be necessary for the protection of the workmen if they were embarrassed by the native tribes.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER was understood to say that such cost was not included in the three millions, nor was it anticipated that it would be required.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) asked if it would be possible to carry a railway through this country without having a very strong protective force.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that was shown by the fact that at the present moment surveyors were employed along the whole route.

*Mr. R. W. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) said they had had no accurate information as to why the sum asked for was fixed at three and not two or five millions. They were told in the Report that by substituting a 3 ft. gauge for a 3 ft. 6 in. gauge, by reducing the weight of the rails from 50 to 35 lbs., and by other economies they could obtain their object for a sum of about £750,000, plus the cost of a road. If they adopted the Reports of those gentlemen they might reasonably come to the conclusion that the Vote of £3,000,000 was far too much. But, on the other hand, if they based their estimate on the cost of the construction of railways in South Africa or in India, they must come to the conclusion that the expenditure must exceed £3,000,000. The Under Secretary for the Colonies, in his speech on the Second Reading of the Bill, referred to railways which had been constructed in Ceylon, Trinidad, and Western Australia, under the auspices of the Colonial Office, and which the right hon. Gentleman considered might be accepted as guides in this South African venture. But he ventured to say that those railways were mere child's play, were toys, compared with a railway through the unknown, and uninhabited, and hot region of tropical Africa. He therefore thought the Committee should be informed how the Government had arrived at £3,000,000 as the probable cost of the railway. Then he would like to know who was in control—who was responsible? A sort of nebulous Government authority had been created. Men had been selected from various Departments to form a composite body who were entrusted with the expenditure of this huge sum. But who was responsible? Who was going to present to Parliament the detailed Reports of the progress of the work and its cost which ought to be presented to Parliament? It was true that the Treasury might give the House any information they chose, but there was nothing in the Bill requiring the managers of the undertaking to submit to the Treasury, periodically, information that would have to be given to a commercial body before they would pay from month to month the necessary amounts for the line. In dealing with public money they ought to see that it was as carefully expended as their own money in connection with their own private commercial ventures. Again, they had no security as to the time this railway would be finished. They could not get out of a labourer employed by the Government as contractor the same amount of work that would be got from him if employed by a private contractor, and the gentlemen at the head of the undertaking had, like the labourer, no incentive to complete the work. Everyone in the employment of the Government might say, "I am working for Her Majesty's Government, which has a bottomless purse." He thought the railway one of the wildest commercial ventures ever submitted to the consideration of the House, and the £3,000,000 or more that were to be spent upon it were intrusted to a new spending department created for the purpose, which, of course, had given no guarantee that it was entitled to this confidence. He had not one word to say against the principle of the Bill. But what he was anxious to secure was that this railway should be cheaply and effectively constructed, that periodical Reports as to its progress should be presented to Parliament, and that it should be completed within a specified time.

*The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he entirely sympathised with the views expressed in the last sentence of the hon. Gentleman. The Government wanted the railway cheaply and effectively constructed; they wanted to have full information in regard to its construction given to Parliament during the time of construction; and they wanted it finished as early as might be. He would undertake on the part of the Treasury that detailed information in regard to the estimates for any part of the line, or in regard to the actual cost of any part of the line, should be demanded from the Committee intrusted with its construction and be from time to time presented to Parliament.

*Mr. PERKS: That quite satisfies me.

*The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that, as the hon. Member was aware, a Memorandum had been presented to Parliament giving in a businesslike form the estimated cost of the 100 miles of the line which had been completely surveyed, and fuller details would be furnished when the work was done. A similar course would be followed in regard to other parts of the line during the progress of the undertaking. The construction of the line would be controlled by the Committee just as similar works in India and the colonies were frequently controlled by Boards of Directors in London. The Committee was composed of men of the greatest experience in such matters, and an engineer of special capacity in such work was on the spot superintending the construction of the line. The staff of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, who were accustomed to such work, would be employed in ordering the necessary supplies which would be sent out from home and in managing all the details. Sir Montagu Ommanney would give his services gratuitously, and a commission of only 1 per cent. would be charged by the Crown Agents on the actual cost of the stores and materials shipped. If the hon. Member would read the long Report presented to Parliament in 1893 on this subject he would find that the line had been surveyed far more carefully than he imagined, and the nature of the work was fairly compared with the work on similar railways in India running through the same kind of country. It was shown that the actual cost of those Indian railways was in one case less per mile than the estimate for this railway, which was based on the best information the Committee could obtain. The Government had taken every precaution that the money voted by Parliament should be usefully and economically laid out; and they were convinced, after the careful inquiry by the Committee appointed by the late Government, that, having regard to the peculiar circumstances of this line, it would not only be much cheaper but much better, politically speaking, for the success of the whole undertaking that it should be in the hands of the Government rather than in those of a firm of contractors.

MR. LEWIS said that the right hon. Gentleman had not explained how it was that the original estimate of £1,750,000 had been increased to £3,000,000.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that the first estimate was cut down to the lowest possible sum. The gauge was smaller; the weight of the rails was 35lb. per yard instead of 50lb. — a reduction which sacrificed efficiency to economy; there was no provision for ballasting the line; and all the provisions for rolling-stock, station buildings, etc., were cut down to a point which was certainly not consistent with efficiency. That was how the estimate of £1,750,000 was arrived at, and hon. Members would see that by increasing the gauge, increasing the weight of rails, allowing for proper ballasting, rolling-stock, and buildings that estimate must be largely increased. On the recommendation of the Committee a considerable sum had also been added to provide for a possibly greater expenditure on a part of the region traversed which was believed to be liable to floods.

MR. LEWIS admitted that if no allowance were made in the original estimate for ballasting the line, it was obviously untrustworthy. But it was very necessary that the expenses should be cut down to the lowest point consistent with efficiency. There was no trade to be expected such as would justify an expensive line; and £3,000,000 largely exceeded the necessities of the case.

*MR. PERKS said that the Report presented to the House in 1895, and signed by those who were still in charge of the scheme, stated that rails weighing 35 lbs. a yard would permit of locomotives which would drag the heaviest traffic to be expected up the steepest gradient. All the big lump sums quoted in the estimate had an "etcetera" at the end; and it was obvious that the bulk of the expenditure came under the "etcetera." The Committee ought to be supplied with the same detailed information which would ordinarily be given by engineers in constructing a railway.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES thought that this was a dangerous adventure. £3,000,000 were to be placed at the absolute disposal of the Secretary of State, in order to convert him into a constructor of railways. He did not believe that even the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs would make a reputation as a railway constructor. He was surprised to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer talk as if there had been complete surveys of this line. In the Paper issued in the present year by the Secretary to the Treasury, it was stated that throughout there was an absence of solid information about the line.—

> "It became evident to the Committee after examination that detailed surveys might modify the conclusion of the able officers who surveyed the route in 1892."

And again:—

> "The reports of the chief Engineer have shown that the ascent from the coast to the tableland will be more expensive than was anticipated. Thence through broken country to the Vaal Ranges, the estimates are thought to be approximately correct."

Did any human being ever construct a railway on estimates and surveys "thought to be approximately correct?" Then they came to this:—

> "Consideration of recent reports on the meteorological and climatic conditions raises doubts regarding the sufficiency of bridging allowed for."

But bridging was one of the most important elements in the whole thing. And then, finally, as regarded the difficulties of the country after the Mau range was reached, they were told that there was an absence of detailed surveys. Putting all these things together, it appeared to him that this was the most monstrous adventure the House was ever asked to embark upon. ["Hear, hear!"] He could not conceive anything more unsatisfactory than handing over to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the construction of a railway into a country of which absolutely nothing was known.

**Dr. CLARK** did not think the class of railway now proposed, which seemed to be similar to what was found in Egypt and Rajputana, was the one they ought to build there at all. The original scheme for a light railway was a much better one. The rails were simply fished together, and could carry in their own weight as much traffic as would require to be carried. The heavy railway would be much more costly. If they were making this railway on ordinary commercial principles they would make a survey for 100 miles, they would know all the gradients and the water-courses, and would have all the information, and then they would get an estimate from contractors as to the cost of that portion. And so on, portion by portion, and in that way they would vote each year the money required. Under the plan proposed, the native labour would be very costly. There would not be the same supervision as there would supposing they had a contractor to see that economy was observed. The board of three or four gentlemen who would meet were in London, knew very little of what was done out in Africa, and would be entirely dependent upon Reports sent home. He expected that £3,000,000 was not a moiety of what the actual cost would be. They would not be able to make these railways as cheaply in Africa as in India—at least, they never had been made as cheaply hitherto. They would get off cheap if the railway was built for six or seven millions. He supposed the idea in making this railway was to carry it down until it met the Egyptian railway, and then they would have the same gauge from Alexandria to Mombasa. He was very doubtful about the whole enterprise.

*Mr. PERKS called attention to the railway gauge, and pointed out that in a Report of April, 1896, the gauge of one metre, or 3 ft. 3 in., was recommended upon identically the same ground that 3 ft. 6 ins. was recommended in the earlier report. As the latter gauge was that of the South African and Egyptian railways, would it not be better to adopt the original suggestion and increase the width of the rails to 3 ft. 6 in.?

*The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. George Curzon, Lancashire, Southport) said that the Government had decided that the 3 ft. gauge was too small, and the selection therefore lay between 3 ft. 3 in. and 3 ft. 6 in. The considerations which finally decided the Committee to select the metre gauge were that it was a gauge which had been adopted over between 7,000 and 8,000 miles of Indian railways; and it would be a great advantage to have the use of a common rolling-stock. They also thought that the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge was rather a heavier line than was contemplated. The question as to the difference between the Reports of the Committees at different times was a difference between a light railway and a more solid and substantial railway. Stress had been laid on the uncertainty with regard to the surveys, especially in connection with the mountainous regions. A survey of the country had been made by the first survey party, but of course, in common with all preliminary surveys, it was open to amendment. As to the contract system, he stated that in many parts of the Empire they had abandoned the system of constructing railways by contract, substituting the Departmental system, notably in Ceylon. There had been a distinct economy in the supersession of the contract by the Departmental system.

*MR. PERKS said that in the estimate of stations the Government had added to the ordinary expenditure the sum necessary for converting them into places of refuge and making the station officials take the place of military men.

*MR. CURZON said that further information rendered it unlikely that those fortifications would be necessary.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS asked whether the working expenses would include any sum for depreciation and repairs. He thought that the Report was rather optimistic. Renewals and repairs would be a very heavy item in a country of this kind. He understood that a detailed survey would only be made as the work progressed. That was not satisfactory. The same course ought to be followed as was followed in the case of the construction of a railway in this country. Here there were always complete plans, with a complete estimate, and with complete specifications. The Government were proceeding in a blindfold, haphazard, and happy-go-lucky way. They had been told that only last week someone who had been engaged in surveying the ground had said that it might be possible to discover a new route. Apparently, therefore, after the line had been carried over some 20 miles, a better route might be found. Not a single inch of railway ought to be constructed before the best possible route had been discovered. In the times of the Railway mania no wilder scheme than this was entered upon.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that no board of railway directors would dream of embarking upon such an enterprise as this upon such scanty information as the Foreign Office possessed. In the Memorandum that had been issued they found the following statements:—

> "It became evident to the Committee (a Committee of experts) on further examination that detailed surveys might modify the conclusions of the able officers who had surveyed the route in 1892. The reports of the chief engineer have shown that the ascent from the coast to the tableland will be more expensive than was anticipated."

Each successive report modified or enlarged its predecessor, but every one of them had this peculiarity—that it increased the estimate. If they were going to make a railway through a swamp, they ought to know something about its nature. Then there was the difficulty caused by floods. These were points on which definite conclusions ought to be come to before money was expended. The optimism of the reports was extraordinary. The idea that 15,000,000 passengers would travel over this line in the course of a year was preposterous. He wanted to know what would be the cost of policing this line. The Masai were a very warlike people, and their attitude towards the line was a matter of extreme uncertainty. Supposing that they should be hostile, would the cost of defending the workmen and of policing the railway be included in the three millions, or would that sum merely cover the cost of laying down the line?

Question put, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 125; Noes, 35.—(Division List, No. 357.)

On the return of the CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, after the usual interval, the Committee considered—

Clause 2,—

BORROWING FOR PURPOSES OF ACT AND ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT.

(1.) The Treasury may, if they think fit, at any time for the purpose of providing money for the issue of sums out of the Consolidated

Fund under this Act, or repaying to that fund all or any part of the sums so issued, borrow money by means of terminable annuities for such period not exceeding *thirty years* from the passing of this Act as the Treasury may fix, and all sums so borrowed shall be paid into the Exchequer.

(2.) The said annuities shall be paid out of the moneys annually provided by Parliament for the foreign and colonial services; and, if those moneys are insufficient, shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund or the growing produce thereof, but shall not be payable as part of the permanent annual charge for the National Debt.

(3.) The Secretary of State shall in every financial year cause to be laid out and laid before the House of Commons an account, in the form required by the Treasury, of the money expended and borrowed and the securities created under this Act, and the accounts of expenditure under this Act shall be audited and reported upon by the Comptroller and Auditor General as appropriation accounts in manner directed by the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act, 1866.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE moved, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "*thirty years*," and to insert instead the words "*fifteen years*," so as to limit the period during which the terminable annuities by which the money borrowed should be repaid should run to 15 years.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that for obvious reasons the term of 30 years was preferable to one of 15 years. He could not accept the Amendment.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked whether these terminable annuities were to be met out of money annually voted by Parliament.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER replied in the affirmative. Each year the annuities would have to be met by money voted by Parliament.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES thought that if the railway made a profit, it ought to be paid into the Treasury in reduction of the charge.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Stafford, Lichfield) asked why we should benefit posterity to this enormous extent by shortening the term of the annuities?

*MR. PERKS, in supporting the Amendment, observed that there was an important reason why the railway should be paid for in fifteen years, and that was that it would afford a good object lesson to the people of this country as to the danger of speculating in this wild way with public money. If under the auspices of the Government, they were going to plunge into investments, as the Government called them, but which were really wild speculations, because they were afraid if they did not do so some other nation might plunge into them, then the sooner the people were brought to their senses by having to bear the onus of this rash method of procedure, the better it would be. It would, therefore, be preferable instead of spreading this expenditure over thirty years to spread it over fifteen, so that a necessary and salutary lesson might the sooner be brought home to the people of this country. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in defence of the proposal of the Government, had compared this railway with the works approved recently under the Naval Works Act. But these latter were carried out in civilised districts where they had carefully-prepared estimates. They were told that this system of thirty years was always chosen in the case of permanent works. But was any railway constructed, in a tropical region, of iron bridges substituted for concrete bridges, a permanent work? Such a railway was not even a permanent work in their own country where the climatic conditions were not so severe, so that much less must it be so in a district subject to floods and where there would be very little user of the railway. The more a line was used, the more traffic it got, the more permanent it became in its character, for it received more attention. No one could contend that the railway would be a permanent work in the nature of those executed under the Naval Works Act, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer suggested. The revenue of the railway from Government traffic, according to the statement of the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs on Monday night, would only be £6,000 a year, so that while the railway was going to cost £3,000,000 of money the receipts from Government traffic would only be £6,000 a year——

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: I rise to a point of Order. I submit that on this clause there is no question of the merits or demerits of the railway. It is a mere question of the number of years the terminable annuity should run.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: That is so. The hon. Member is not entitled upon this Amendment to discuss the whole merits of the Bill, the principle of which has been already passed by the House.

*MR. PERKS was merely pointing out one of the reasons why he thought the period should be reduced from 30 to 15 years. In 30 years, probably none of the railway would be in existence, and it was not fair to saddle posterity with the cost of a railway which would, in their time, probably have disappeared or have been stolen.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) supported the Amendment. There was nothing which gave governing bodies—whether they were local governing bodies or Imperial—a greater temptation to extravagance than that a loan should be spread over a considerable period of time. He ventured to think if the time was restricted in this case the Government would be acting wisely in so restricting it. The people of this country would then have their responsibility brought home to them in regard to the construction of the railway. The right hon. Gentleman quoted the Naval Works Bill in support of the argument he desired to bring before the House. But those Naval Works were really of a permanent character which would last for centuries while this railway was a very different thing owing to accidents, floods or unforeseen circumstances which to a very much larger extent would be liable to attach to it, therefore the term ought to be shortened. In future their Imperial responsibilities were more likely to increase than diminish. If they were to carry out the policy of which the construction of this railway was the forerunner, then he said their responsibilities in various parts of the world would largely increase, they should require to draw more upon their resources in the future than they had done in the past, and the sooner they got rid of responsibilities of this kind the better.

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) contended that while 30 years was looked upon as a reasonable period over which to extend the repayment of loans in the case of permanent works in this country, it was much too long when dealing with a work of this kind which, having regard to the nature of its construction, and the climatic influences to which it would be exposed could not be described as permanent. This line would be subject to sun, to storms, and to the interference of insects, as was the case with railways in India. In India they could not lay wooden sleepers along a railway simply because they were liable to be eaten up and destroyed. That was an element to be taken into consideration. Again, iron bridges on a railway were liable to deterioration from the effect of excessive heat. The permanency of an iron bridge in a tropical country was much shorter lived than a similar bridge in this country. Then in a tropical climate iron rails were liable to get twisted and out of condition. He thought it a safe and wise provision, from the novelty of the case and from the peculiar circumstances of the railway there, where they had no material to judge as to the permanency of the works, that they should fix the period at 15 years in the meantime. That did not prevent the Chancellor of the Exchequer afterwards, if matters turned out well, from moving to extend the time to 30 years if necessary. Supposing this railway carried no goods; supposing the railway to be carried off by the natives? If they adopted the Bill as it stood, they would have placed themselves in the position of having spread the payment over a period of 30 years. He thought that was most unreasonable. He thought the Government should show their faith in the success of this railway by agreeing to repay the money within the 15 years.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES pointed out that the Committee had agreed that £3,000,000 should be advanced to the Secretary of State for the Foreign Department. Undoubtedly the best way of raising the money for this purpose was by terminable annuities for not exceeding 30 years. If they reduced the maximum term from 30 years to 15 they would not at all affect the principle of the Bill. They would simply tie the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and prevent him from raising the money in the best way. He would suggest that the Amendment should be withdrawn.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he rose at the same time as the hon. Member for the purpose of asking leave to withdraw the Amendment. He simply wanted to raise a protest.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES, in order to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for an explanation on one or two points, moved an Amendment providing that a detailed account of the expenditure by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs should be supplied to the Treasury. Sub-section (3) of the clause provided that the Secretary of State should, in every financial year, cause to be laid before the House of Commons an account in the form required by the Treasury. He might remind the Committee that the Secretary of State was not an accountant—[*cries of* "Divide!"]—and that, consequently, he would require some direction as to the sort of account he was to deliver. [*Renewed cries of* "Divide!"] In fact, he doubted whether the Foreign Office could provide an accountant who could pass an examination in book-keeping by double entry. [*Ironical cheers.*] The importance of the matter lay in the fact that they had placed £3,000,000 absolutely at the disposal of the Secretary of State, and it was eminently necessary that the accounts to be furnished to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and, through him, to the House should be proper and detailed accounts. As the clause stood, all the Secretary of State need do was to say that he had received £2,000,000 and had spent £2,000,000 on this railway. [*Loud cries of* "Divide, divide!"] He was not inclined to sit down under this interruption, and if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would observe in his private interruptions some of the courtesy he observed in his public capacity, he would facilitate Debate. [*Ironical cheers and cries of* "Divide!"] This clause, as it stood, did not require that any details should appear in the account at all. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be ready to explain that he intended to insist on a detailed account. If the right hon. Gentleman told him that that was what he meant, and that he and the House would be provided with a detailed account of the expenditure, he should

be quite satisfied and should withdraw his Amendment. [*Ironical cheers.*]

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, who was received with loud cheers, said he was not in the habit of saying in private anything he was not prepared to repeat in the House. [*Cheers.*] He interrupted because the hon. Member was talking absolute nonsense. [*Cheers.*] The hon. Member stated to the Committee that under this clause the Secretary of State might, if he chose, certify an expenditure of £1,000,000 on the one side, and the receipt of £1,000,000 on the other, and that that would be sufficient for the account provided for by this clause. That was absolute nonsense. [*Cheers.*] The clause provided that the account should be made out in the form required by the Treasury. He had already stated, at a time when the hon. Member was not in the House, in reply to an hon. Member opposite, that the Treasury would be most careful to provide a detailed form of account, which should be laid, not only before the Treasury, but before Parliament afterwards. [*Cheers.*]

MR. GIBSON BOWLES, who spoke amid loud and continuous cries of "Nonsense" and "Divide," said the right hon. Gentleman had been pleased to say that his description of the clause was nonsense, but the right hon. Gentleman had really confirmed that description. He persisted in saying that, so far as the clause was concerned, there was nothing whatever in it to require the Secretary of State to deliver a detailed account. [*Cries of* "Divide!"] The right hon. Gentleman had also been pleased to say that he never stated anything in private which he was not prepared to say in public. He did not dispute that, but, when the right hon. Gentleman said he had misdescribed the clause, he proved that it was not a misdescription at all by now telling him that he was prepared to give an account. [*Loud laughter and cries of* "Divide!"]

*MR. PERKS thought it would be well to present the information in regard to the various items of cost on this railway in the form usually presented in the construction of railways, and suggested that the Government should consult the engineers of the railway on the point.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that was quite his idea of the way in which the information should be presented.

Amendment negatived.

Clauses 2 and 3 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the Third time to-morrow.

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## LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL [H.L.]

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

**MR. CHAPLIN** moved after Clause 3, to insert the following Clause which was read a First time:—

### PENALTIES.

"A breach of any bye-law or regulation made under this Act may on summary conviction be punished by a fine not exceeding ten pounds."

Clause read a Second time, and added to the Bill.

**MR. H. C. F. LUTTRELL** (Devonshire, Tavistock) moved to insert after Clause 1, the following Clause:—

### REGULATIONS AS TO LIGHTS.

(1.) During the period between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise, the person in charge of a light locomotive shall carry attached thereto a lamp so constructed and placed as to exhibit a light in the direction in which the locomotive is proceeding, and so lighted and kept lighted as to afford adequate means of signalling the approach or position of the locomotive.

"(2) If any person contravenes this section he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two pounds."

The hon. Member remarked that he thought it was of great importance in the public interests that the motor cars should be compelled to carry lights, and to carry them in such a manner, that the cars would be visible after dark. The protection of public life was absolutely involved in the matter, because the motion of the cars would be comparatively noiseless. It was laid down by an Act in 1888 that bicycles should carry lights after dark, and the precaution had been found to be in the highest degree necessary. ["Hear, hear!"] In those circumstances, he contended that a similar regulation should be applied to motor vehicles of all descriptions in the public interest. He presumed that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill was in favour of the object of the new clause, because, when in Committee on the Measure, the right hon. Gentleman had an Amendment down to precisely the same effect. When he moved his Amendment the right hon. Gentleman appealed to him to withdraw it, saying he would later on move an Amendment much to the same effect. Later on the right hon. Gentleman did move an Amendment but very quickly withdrew it. It would be said that regulations as to lights would be made by the local authorities. Clause 3 provided that the Local Government Board "may" make regulations with respect to the use of light locomotives. It would be said the Board "may" make regulations as to lights. They "may" or they "may" not. He mentioned that it should be laid down by Statute that motor carriages should carry lights, and it was with that view he moved the Clause which stood in his name.

Clause read a First time.

**CAPTAIN BETHELL** (York, E.R., Holderness) said it would be very simple to say that every motor car should carry a light—he would prefer a red light—so as to distinguish it from any other vehicle.

**MR. T. W. RUSSELL** (Tyrone, S.) said the Government never contemplated anything so foolish that these cars should go without lights at night, but what happened before the Standing Committee was this. The hon. Member had an Amendment to the effect that the cars should carry lights. Another Amendment was down in the name of the President of the Local Government Board, and upon that Amendment the discussion was taken. The Committee considered that this and a great many other matters might be best regulated by rules made by the Local Government Board. His right hon. Friend thereupon withdrew the Amendment. The undertaking given would be carried out.

MR. WARNER said the Local Government Board might have given an undertaking to make a regulation that these cars should carry lights, but there was no reason why it should not be laid down by law that every motor car should carry a light.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomery) said it was obvious it would be much better to have the matter settled by law than to leave it to the Local Government Board. The County Councils and other local authorities would have to approach the Local Government Board and they did not exactly know what view the Board would take. If they had an Act of Parliament behind them matters would be made much easier.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton) thought the Local Government Board was undermanned and overworked, and could not conceive any reason why Parliament should saddle it with additional work in this matter. The last Conservative Government provided, in the Local Government Act of 1888, that bicycles should carry lights, and he trusted the present Government would accept this clause, and not put the House to the trouble of dividing.

MR. CHAPLIN said that undoubtedly motor cars ought to carry lights, and the Local Government Board had given an undertaking that they would make regulations accordingly. It was quite true the Local Government Board was undermanned, but in spite of that he thought they were able to make regulations in such a matter as this. There were a number of other questions which would have to be dealt with and which, he thought, had better be the subject of regulations. He saw no necessity to make an exception in this particular case. As to the character of the light and the precise conditions under which it should be shown, that was a question which required consideration, but if the House wished to have it inserted that a light should be carried he should have no objection to that. [*Cheers.*]

SIR W. HART DYKE (Kent, Dartford) said what they wanted, from a practical point of view, was protection. They did not want to go to the Local Government Board for protection. ["Hear, hear!"] It was a simple thing to say plainly by statute that those vehicles should on all occasions carry a light. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. J. LLOYD WHARTON (York, W. R., Ripon) was sure the whole country would welcome a provision in favour of safety.

*THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said there was no objection to accepting the words of the clause down to and including the words "exhibit a light," with the addition, "in accordance with regulations to be made by the Local Government Board."

Clause, as amended, read a Second time and added to the Bill.

*MR. LUTTRELL moved the following new clause, which was read a First time:—

LOCOMOTIVES TO CARRY A BELL.

"Every light locomotive shall carry a bell or other instrument capable of giving audible and sufficient warning of the approach or position of the carriage."

He said the object of this was as impartial as the last, to which the Committee had just assented. For while the last made provision for making these carriages visible, the object of this was to make them capable of being audible. The last affected only the night, this affected both day and night. As these carriages would be noiseless he thought it very necessary that they should be in such a state as to be able to give notice of approach.

MR. CHAPLIN said this Amendment was rejected in the Grand Committee, but if it was the wish of the House he should accept it. ["Hear, hear."]

Clause read a Second time, and added to the Bill.

*MR. LUTTRELL moved the following new clause, which was read a First time:—

RATE OF SPEED.

"No light locomotive shall travel along a public highway at a greater speed than 14 miles an hour."

He said he thought it necessary that there should be some limit of speed. Unless there were some limit these carriages might travel at a speed dangerous to the public. For they would only come under the provisions against furious driving—and this law was extremely difficult to carry out. Policemen were now largely influenced in their idea of furious driving by the amount of exertion a horse was making. It would be quite possible to drive a rapid horse at ten or twelve miles an hour without being had up for furious driving, while to whip a slow horse into ten miles an hour would very likely appear as furious driving. These carriages would go as smoothly at one rate as at another, and it would therefore be extremely difficult to say what was furious driving. For these reasons he contended for a limit of speed, and he thought 14 miles an hour a reasonable maximum.

Mr. LOUGH considered that 10 miles an hour would be sufficient.

Mr. CHAPLIN thought that the powers already possessed provided against furious driving, and it was for that reason, and because the Standing Committee were almost unanimously of opinion that these regulations had better be made by the Local Government Board, that he felt disposed to ask the hon. Member not to press his proposal. On the other hand, 14 miles as a maximum he did not think was at all unreasonable. [*Cries of* "Oh!"] There was some objection to drawing a hard and fast line, because what should be the maximum speed in the Strand or in any crowded street would not be equally suitable in the country.

Mr. WHARTON said the conclusion arrived at by the Central Chamber of Agriculture was that 10 miles was enough. ["Hear, hear!"]

*The SOLICITOR GENERAL suggested that if the clause were adopted these words should be added, "or than such lesser rate as may be prescribed by the regulations of the Local Government Board." ["Hear, hear!"]

Captain BETHELL (York, E. R., Holderness) held that it would be a mistake to lay down a limit of speed. These machines were not always going to weigh three tons, in the course of time they would be improved and made lighter, and he was strongly of opinion that the regulation of speed ought to be left to the authorities.

Mr. HENRY LLEWELYN (Somerset, N.) hoped his right hon. Friend would not fix the limit at more than ten miles, and that if it were fixed by the Local Government Board they should have a pledge that that limit should not be exceeded.

Mr. J. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) thought that a fixed limit would be dangerous, and that it would be safer to go on the principle of furious driving.

Mr. B. L. COHEN (Islington, E.) thought the Local Government Board should be directed to fix a less rate of speed.

Mr. WARNER contended that there ought to be a maximum in the Bill.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: Does the hon. Member accept the suggestion of the Solicitor-General?

*Mr. LUTTRELL assented.

Clause read a Second time,

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL moved to insert at the end of the clause the words:—

"or at such lesser rate as may be prescribed by the regulations of the Local Government Board."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir JOHN DORINGTON (Gloucester, Tewkesbury) moved to leave out the word "fourteen," and to insert instead thereof the word "ten."

Mr. CHAPLIN said they were discussing a new subject, on which, perhaps, more experience would be beneficial. He hoped his hon. Friend would not press the Amendment. These vehicles were of very different descriptions; some were very light and calculated to go faster than others, while some should not go at a greater rate than ten miles an hour. He knew carriages which in these days went at a rate of more than 10 miles an hour, and he remembered the time when he should have thought that rather a slow rate of progress. [*Laughter.*] He thought it might be safely left to the discretion of the Local Government Board to make regulations suited to the various requirements of the case.

Mr. F. G. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) reminded hon. Members that country roads had sharp corners.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said he was quite certain they used in coaches to travel at a faster rate than 10 miles an hour, and these vehicles could be pulled up with greater facility than could a heavy coach drawn by four horses with no brake. He thought the House would make a mistake to lay down a hard and fast rule on the point. It would be better to leave the maximum as proposed in the clause, and allow the Local Government Board to make such regulations as they might from time to time think proper.

MR. HENRY LLEWELLYN insisted that locomotives, three tons weight, going at such a speed would cause great injury to the roads.

MR. P. A. MUNTZ (Warwickshire, Tamworth) supported the suggestion of leaving to the Local Government Board the fixing of regulations, as necessity required.

MR. MICHAEL FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) thought the House would do well to accept an Irish maxim, and split the difference as between 10 miles and 14 miles.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS hoped the right hon. Gentleman would adhere to the clause as it stood. Vehicles ought to be allowed to travel on quiet country roads at a maximum of 14 miles.

*THE SOLICITOR GENERAL suggested that 14 miles should be allowed to stand as the maximum, and the words, "or than any less speed which may be prescribed by the Local Government Board," be added at the end of the clause.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*THE SOLICITOR GENERAL proposed the addition of the words, "or than any less speed which may be prescribed by the Local Government Board."

*MR. F. A. CHANNING (Northampton, E.) asked whether the Local Government Board would prescribe different rules for different parts of the country?

MR. CHAPLIN replied that the regulations would be framed by the Local Government Board in accordance with local needs.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 1,—

EXEMPTION OF LIGHT LOCOMOTIVES FROM CERTAIN STATUTORY PROVISIONS.

(1.) The enactments mentioned in the schedule to this Act, and any other enactment restricting the use of locomotives on highways and contained in any public general, or local and personal Act in force at the passing of this Act, shall not apply to any vehicle propelled by mechanical power, if it is under three tons in weight unladen, and is not used for the purpose of drawing more than one vehicle (such vehicle with its locomotive not to exceed in weight unladen four tons), and is so constructed that no smoke or visible vapour is emitted therefrom except from any temporary or accidental cause; and vehicles so exempted, whether locomotives or drawn by locomotives, are in this Act referred to as light locomotives.

Provided that:—

(*a*.) A county authority shall have power to make byelaws preventing or restricting the use of such locomotives upon any bridge where such authority are satisfied that such use would be attended with damage to the public, subject to an appeal to the Local Government Board by any person aggrieved by the exercise of the power,

(*b*.) A light locomotive shall be deemed to be a carriage within the meaning of any Act of Parliament, whether public general or local, and of any rule, regulation, or byelaw made under any Act of Parliament, and, if used as a carriage of any particular class, shall be deemed to be a carriage of that class, and the law relating to carriages of that class shall apply accordingly.

(2.) In calculating for the purposes of this Act the weight of a vehicle unladen, the weight of any water, fuel, or accumulators used for the purpose of propulsion shall not be included.

*MR. LUTTRELL moved in Subsection (1) to leave out "three tons" and to insert "four tons." He thought three tons was too light a maximum. If the locomotive was three tons the vehicle could only be one ton, for locomotive and vehicle together could only be four tons. The omnibuses running in London were from 28 to 30 cwt. weight, or about a ton and a half. Therefore they were proposing that the vehicles to be drawn by locomotives should be of a lesser weight than the omnibuses drawn by one or two horses.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that this question had given much trouble. When the Bill was originally introduced in another place, the weight allowed was 2 tons unladen. That was changed to 4 tons, but traction was introduced. In the House of Commons Standing Committee everyone but the hon. Member thought that 4 tons was too much, and "3 tons" was inserted as a compromise, another ton being allowed for the weight of the waggon drawn. The Committee would see that the weight of water, fuel and accumulators was not to be included.

Amendment negatived.

*MR. LUTTRELL moved in Sub-section (1) to leave out the words "or visible vapour." He thought it unreasonable to forbid these motor cars to emit visible vapour, when men and horses alike did so. There was ample provision against the emitting of smoke.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that the Standing Committee arrived at a practically unanimous decision on this point. The experts who had been consulted said that it was possible to construct the motor cars so that no visible vapour would be emitted: and as vapour might be annoyance it was best to require that the cars should be so constructed.

MR. LOUGH hoped that the Government would stand by their words. His hon. Friend wished to make these cars twice too heavy, to let them go too fast, and to encourage them to pump out steam.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CHAPLIN moved in paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1) to leave out the words "A county authority," and to insert the words "The council of any county or county borough as the body having power to restrict the use of locomotives on bridges."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CHAPLIN moved, in Paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1), after the word "bridge" to insert the words "within their area."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CHAPLIN moved, in Paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "damage," and to insert instead thereof the word "danger," the former word being a misprint.

SIR JOHN DORINGTON thought "damage" a very important word, because damage to a bridge might mean that the bridge was broken down. He suggested, therefore, that both words, should stand.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton) hoped that they would adhere to the word "danger," otherwise the Sub-section would be unintelligible.

MR. CHAPLIN thought the right hon. Gentleman was right. The word "danger" included everything that was desirable or necessary.

SIR J. DORINGTON said the way he would like it put was "the damage to the bridge, or danger to the public."

MR. JASPER TULLY (Leitrim, S.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would include some "extraordinary traffic" clause to apply to Ireland.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that in the Amendment that would be moved later it was proposed to legislate on this very point. The County Authority in Ireland shall mean the Grand Jury.

MR. WHARTON thought that the retention of the word "damage" would be extremely useful, because serious damage might be done to a bridge, and no notice taken of it. The clause should, therefore, read "damage to the bridge or danger to the public."

Question, "That the word 'damage' stand part of the Bill." Agreed to.

SIR J. DORINGTON moved, in Paragraph (*b*) Sub-section (1), after the word "damage" to insert the words "to the bridge or danger."

Amendment agreed to.

CAPTAIN BETHELL moved to leave out from paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1) the words,

> "subject to an appeal to the Local Government Board by any person aggrieved by the exercise of the power,"

and substituting words giving the County Authority the power of regulating the use of locomotives upon highways. He said it was an extraordinary circumstance after the trouble taken to bring together the best men in town and counties for the work of local councils that whenever they proposed to restrict the use of a locomotive on a bridge, because they were satisfied that there was likely to be damage to the bridge or danger to the public, an individual should be allowed to appeal to the Local Government Board. Even under the existing law the County Authority had complete control over existing locomotives on bridges. He wanted to give the County Councils and the Town Councils some power in connection with the regulation of locomotives on their highways, and he moved this Amendment in the interests of the Local Government Board.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that as it seemed to be generally admitted that the Local Government Board had enough to do already, he was quite willing to omit the words which his hon. Friend proposed to leave out; but to the words which his hon. Friend proposed to insert he could not agree.

Amendment agreed to.

CAPTAIN BETHELL moved after the word "power," (struck out) to insert the words "or regulating their use upon highways."

MR. T. W. RUSSELL pointed out that if the various County Authorities in the kingdom were permitted to make independent regulations it would be impossible to secure anything approaching to uniformity. The House should bear in mind that these cars would very likely cross the boundaries of three counties in a single day. If the regulations of these counties differed in character, a car, an omnibus perhaps, might be brought to a standstill at some inconvenient moment. One county might sanction a certain width of wheel, and another county a different width. (Captain BETHELL: "No.") If the Amendment were agreed to this, traffic would be exposed to extraordinary difficulties. He resisted the Amendment on the ground that it was desirable to secure uniformity and prevent confusion.

MR. WARNER urged that boroughs ought to be permitted to make their own regulations as to speed, and that counties ought to have the same power. Omnibus directors would soon learn the rules of different counties. Some little difficulty might at first be caused to tourists by varying regulations, but guide-books

would soon be published supplying them with all necessary information.

MR. TULLY hoped the Amendment would not be agreed to. The inconvenience caused by a diversity of regulations was proved in the Committee that had considered the subject of traction engines. It was there stated that an unfortunate man who had passed through several counties with his engine had been served with six separate summonses for infringements of varying regulations. Being accustomed to coercion as an Irishman, this evidence had made him feel as if he were at home. [*Laughter.*]

Amendment negatived.

Clause 3,—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD REGULATIONS.

(1.) The Local Government Board may make regulations with respect to the use of light locomotives on highways, and their construction and other conditions under which they may be used, and a breach of any such regulations may be thereby made punishable by a fine not exceeding ten pounds, recoverable on summary conviction.

(2.) Regulations under this may, if the Local Government Board deem it necessary, be of a local nature and limited in their application to a particular area.

MR. CHAPLIN moved in Sub-section (1) to leave out the words—

"and a breach of any such regulation may be thereby made punishable by a fine not exceeding ten pounds, recoverable on summary conviction."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. CHAPLIN moved at the end of Sub-section (2) after the word "area," to insert—

"and may on the application of any local authority prohibit or restrict the use of locomotives for the purposes of traction in crowded streets or in other places where such use may be attended with danger to the public."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CHAPLIN moved to add at the end of the clause after the words last inserted—

"All regulations under this section shall have full effect notwithstanding anything in any other Act, whether general or local, or any bye-laws or regulations made thereunder."

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN wished to know whether the Amendment met the point he intended to raise by the next Amendment.

*THE SOLICITOR GENERAL said the Amendment was intended to obviate the danger of its being supposed that any local bye-laws should prevail over regulations made by the Local Government Board. He thought the hon. Gentleman would see that the clause he proposed was quite unnecessary. Although Clause 1 provided that the Acts scheduled should not apply, there was nothing to prevent the Local Government Board making regulations similar to any of those contained in those Acts.

MR. TULLY asked whether it would not be possible to insert something in the nature of an Extraordinary Traffic Clause, giving local authorities in Ireland power, in the case of any of their bridges or roads being damaged by the improper use of them, to recover damages, or to restrict their use.

In answer to Captain BETHELL,

*THE SOLICITOR GENERAL said said that it was provided in Clause 1 that a light locomotive should be deemed to be a carriage within the meaning of any Act of Parliament, so that any provision of the Common Law as to the use of carriages would apply to the locomotives.

CAPTAIN BETHELL suggested that the Local Authorities might have the powers they had now.

*THE SOLICITOR GENERAL said that the bye-laws of a local Act would be superseded only in so far as they were inconsistent to the regulations made by the Local Government Board. As to the Question put by the hon. Member for South Leitrim, there was a Bill to amend the law with respect to the use of locomotives only. The Extraordinary Traffic Clause dealt with traffic of all descriptions, and therefore it would be quite impossible to introduce it into this Bill.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN moved to add at the end of the clause after the words last inserted:—

> "And such regulations shall not be invalid by reason only that they contain restrictions or conditions which might be imposed under any of the Acts contained in the Schedule."

The hon. Member said the Amendment would do no harm, it would stop litigation and would protect local authorities from unnecessary litigation or difficulty in dealing with the Local Government Board.

*THE SOLICITOR GENERAL hoped his hon. Friend would not press the Amendment. The first section only provided that the enactments mentioned in the Schedule of the Act should not apply to locomotives provided they complied with certain conditions. That was to say, locomotives of the kind were relieved from the burden of those Acts. But there is no enactment that such locomotives should not be subject to similar conditions or regulations under orders made by the Local Government Board. So he was on safe ground in saying there was no possible objection in point of law to the Local Government Board making regulations to the same effect as to any portion of the Acts referred to. The hon. Member said the Local Government Board might hesitate to make such regulations. He could assure him that the Local Government Board would have no hesitation in the matter. If regulations were desirable they would be so advised, and there would not be the slightest objection to making what regulations were thought right.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN said the remarks of the Solicitor General would be on record, and as they satisfied his object in moving the Amendment, he would withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. PARKER SMITH moved to add at the end of the clause, after the words last inserted:—

> "Every regulation purporting to be made in pursuance of this Section shall be forthwith laid

before both Houses of Parliament, and if an address is presented to Her Majesty the Queen by either House within the next forty days thereafter, on which that House has sat, praying that any such regulation may be annulled, Her Majesty in Council may annul the same without prejudice to the validity of anything done in the meantime in pursuance thereof; but subject as aforesaid every regulation shall, while unrevoked, be of the same validity as if enacted in this Act."

The hon. Member said he hoped the Amendment would be accepted. It was discussed at some length upstairs. It commended itself to the Committee at large, and the principle was then accepted by the Government, but in consequence of difficulties as to how it was to be worked out in detail it was withdrawn on the understanding that it would be moved in the House. There was no doubt that the House ought to have an opportunity of discussing and criticising these proposals. It appeared to him that the knowledge that these things would be upon the Table of the House and be subjected to the criticism of hon. Members had a great effect of itself. He begged to move his Amendment.

Mr. CHAPLIN said that he should find great difficulty in accepting the whole of the hon. Member's Amendment, for a reason with which he thought the House would sympathise and agree. They were very rapidly, he hoped, approaching the end of the Session, and supposing that the regulations were not completed before the House adjourned, the manufacturers of these new vehicles, who were looking forward with the greatest anxiety to the passing of this Bill, would find that, in consequence of the regulations not having received the approval of that House, they would be unable to use these new carriages until Parliament re-assembled. He thought that that would be going beyond what was necessary in this case. He admitted that it would be important that the regulations should be laid before Parliament, and therefore he was willing to accept that part of the hon. Member's Amendment which required that the regulations should be forthwith laid before both Houses of Parliament, in order to give hon. Members an opportunity of criticising them. In these circumstances he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would withdraw his Amendment. ["Hear, hear!"]

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn; Amendment suggested by Mr. CHAPLIN agreed to; clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4,—

CONSTRUCTION OF WHEELS OF LOCOMOTIVES ON ROADS.

The requirements of Sub-section 4 of Section 28 of the Highways and Locomotives Amendment Act, 1878, may be from time to time varied by Order of the Local Government Board.

Captain BETHELL moved the omission of Clause 4. He said that anyone looking at the clause, and comparing it with the schedule, would wonder what on earth the clause was doing in the Bill. No doubt there might be good grounds for its having been placed in the Bill, and, perhaps, the hon. and learned Solicitor General would be able to give the House some explanation why it appeared in it?

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said that the clause had been inserted by the Standing Committee. The object of the clause was to give the Local Government Board power to sanction these new vehicles. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would withdraw his Amendment.

Captain BETHELL asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn; clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5,—

APPLICATION TO SCOTLAND.

(1.) In the application of this Act to Scotland a reference to the Secretary for Scotland shall be substituted for a reference to the Local Government Board.

Mr. CHAPLIN moved, after the word "Board," to add the words:—

"A reference to the road authority of any county or burgh for a reference to the council of a county, and a reference to Sub-section 4 of Section 3 of the Locomotives Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1878, for a reference to Sub-section 4 of Section 28 of the Highways and Locomotives Amendment Act, 1878."

MR. C. B. RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) moved to amend the proposed Amendment by adding, after the words "reference to the council of a county," the words "or county burgh."

Amendment to the proposed Amendment agreed to; clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6,—

APPLICATION TO IRELAND.

In the application of this Act to Ireland a reference to the Local Government Board for Ireland shall be substituted for a reference to the Local Government Board.

MR. CHAPLIN moved after the word "Board," to add

"and a reference to the council of a county shall be construed in an urban sanitary district under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, as a reference to the urban sanitary authority, and elsewhere as a reference to the grand jury."

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. TULLY moved to add a proviso at the end of the clause to the effect that in Ireland power should be given to the Grand Jury or County Surveyor to take proceedings before the magistrates against the owners of locomotives for damage done to roads. He said that at present there was no power to proceed against the owners of these engines, no matter what damage they caused, and this he considered a great hardship, inasmuch as the county cess, by which the roads were maintained, was paid exclusively by the occupiers and tenant farmers.

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND pointed out that under Section 3 the local authorities in Ireland would have ample power to make byelaws regulating the traffic of motor engines and imposing a penalty of £10 for their infringement. The words were therefore entirely unnecessary.

*MR. TULLY: If they are unnecessary, that is no reason why there should be any harm in adopting them. [*Laughter.*]

MR. DALY thought this matter should be placed in more popular hands than the Grand Jury. He suggested the Baronial Sessions.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL pointed out that the House had already agreed that the Grand Jury should be the county authority to act in the matter.

SIR R. PENROSE-FITZGERALD (Cambridge) said he thought there was a good deal of force in the Amendment. The Grand Jury lapsed after every Assize; there was no permanent existence with them, and the only county authority that could at present interfere in the action of presentment with regard to any damage of the kind referred to, was the County Surveyor. He could not see that the Amendment would in any way unfavourably affect the Bill, whilst at the same time he thought it would safeguard the interests of the ratepayers. Besides, he thought the Amendment would be the easiest way of meeting the object in view.

MR. LOUGH said the words which had been proposed might not be entirely satisfactory, though he thought the County Surveyor in Ireland was the authority who should be empowered to act in the matter, and he would suggest that the Government should look into the point, and that, on that promise, the Amendment should be withdrawn.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said that Section 1 and Section 3 would enable the Grand Juries to make bye-laws prohibiting the use of those engines on certain conditions, and inflicting a fine of £10 in case of breach of those conditions. He thought that that would afford ample protection to the public. With regard to the proposal respecting the County Surveyor, he thought it would be very undesirable, for several reasons, to confer on that official the power, on his own motion, to institute proceedings for damage. There might be difficulty in recovering the costs of an action against him or the Grand Jury should it be unsuccesful. But there would be nothing to prevent the Grand Jury from providing in their bye-laws that he should have power to sue in their name, in certain cases, to recover the penalties.

Amendment negatived; clause, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

MR. CHAPLIN moved "That the Bill be re-committed."

Mr. J. SAMUEL would like to know what it was proposed to do with regard to bridges in non-county boroughs. ["Order, order!"]

*The SOLICITOR GENERAL said the Government thought it most convenient that the County councils should make bye-laws.

Ordered, That the Bill be re-committed to a Committee of the whole House in respect of a new Clause (Excise Duty), and of an Amendment to the Clause (Penalties), added on Consideration, as amended.—(*Mr. Chaplin.*)

Bill considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman of Ways and Means, in the Chair.]

Mr. CHAPLIN brought up the following new Clause, which was read a First time:—

EXCISE DUTY ON CERTAIN LOCOMOTIVES.

(1) On and after the first day of January next after the passing of this Act there shall be granted, charged, and paid in Great Britain for every light locomotive which is liable to duty either as a carriage or as a hackney carriage under Section four of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1888, an additional duty of excise at the following rate, namely:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds one ton unladen, but does not exceed two tons unladen ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| If the weight of the locomotive exceeds two tons unladen ... | 3 | 3 | 0 |

(2) Every such duty shall be paid, together with the duty on the licence for the locomotive as a carriage or a hackney carriage, and shall in England be dealt with in manner directed, with respect to duties on local taxation licences within the meaning of the Local Government Act, 1888, and in Scotland be paid into the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account, and be dealt with as part of the residue within the meaning of section two, sub-section three, of the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890."

He said it seemed to him that it was only fair that when these vehicles were of excessive weight they should pay an additional duty, and the Standing Committee appeared to be unanimously of opinion that this should be done. The clause was a very simple one.

*Mr. LUTTRELL objected to the clause. The men who were making this start were public benefactors, and ought not, therefore, to be taxed so heavily. Under this clause, a man with one of these motors might have to pay as much as five guineas, for he would have to pay the Carriage Duty, which might be two guineas, as well as the three guineas extra. It might be argued that these cars would do more harm to the roads than ordinary carriages; but if they were thus taxed on that account, they were not consistent in that line of argument, as the money would be collected in one centre by the Imperial authority, and only be distributed to local authorities according to the rateable value. Thus in our district there might be a hundred motor carriages using the roads, in another only five, and yet the district in which there were a hundred, would, if the rateable values were the same, receive no more than that in which there were five. He thought the present tax on carriages ample, and was opposed to taxing extra those who would be making useful experiments.

Mr. LOUGH said the object of the Bill was to withdraw the obstruction which the existing law presented to the employment of motor cars, and yet in the same Bill it was proposed to fine the people who employed them.

Captain BETHELL also thought the proposed tax was too heavy.

Mr. TULLY said he opposed the proposal, as he felt sure it would be followed by a tax on bicycles and tricycles.

Question put,—"That the Clause be read a Second time."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 125; Noes, 30.—(Division List, No. 358.)

Clause added to the Bill.

Mr. LOUGH said that under the existing law carriages used for pleasure were taxed two guineas, whereas hackney carriages were only taxed fifteen shillings. If a poor man were to try to make a living by running a motor car as a hackney carriage, his tax ought not to be higher than fifteen shillings.

Mr. CHAPLIN pointed out that a motor car used as an ordinary hackney carriage could not possibly weigh a ton, it would therefore pay only fifteen shillings. A large car used as an omnibus would be so expensive a vehicle that it would be out of a poor man's reach. Heavy vehicles of that kind would be run by companies that could well afford to pay the additional duties.

MR. LOUGH complained that no distinction was made between the motor carriage used for pleasure and the hackney motor carriage.

MR. CHAPLIN said that under the existing law the carriage used for pleasure paid two guineas, and the hackney carriage only fifteen shillings. That state of things would continue.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, with Amendments; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

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### LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

Motion made, "That this Bill be read the Third time."

*MR. CHANNING moved to re-commit the Bill in respect of Clauses 16, 23, and 25. He wanted to draw the attention of the Government to two important points which, as yet, there had been no opportunity of considering in that House, and which could not be dealt with in another place. With regard to Clauses 16 and 25, the objects which he had in view were embodied in Amendments which were placed upon the Paper for the Report Stage, but which could not be moved owing to the questions raised being questions of rating, and thus out of Order except in Committee. Those Amendments provided that any rates levied for the purposes of this Bill should be special rates, and should be divided between the owner and the occupier, having regard to the great advantage conferred on the owners of estates by this Bill. In order that those points might be considered, it would be necessary to re-commit the Bill. The second of these clauses, he would point out, referred to Scotland, where most of the rates of this nature were at the present time divided between the occupier and the owner, and not to divide the rate would create an anomaly. To render the special rate under the Bill divisible between owner and occupier, would, therefore, only be to apply to the case of light railways the usual rule of Scotch rating. He also asked that the Bill should be re-committed in respect of Clause 23. He thought that many hon. Members could hardly have considered how largely this Bill would modify the rights of municipalities and local authorities under the Tramways Act of 1870. As matters stood now, a local authority, when a tramway was constructed by promoters other than themselves, had a statutory right to acquire it by purchase within six months after the expiring 21 years, or of any seventh year afterwards. The present Bill provided machinery which would be largely used by the promoters of tramways, but it contained provisions which would completely alter the position of local authorities in respect of the power to acquire tramways. The tendency of legislation in these matters had been hitherto to increase rather than to decrease the power of local authorities. Under the Bill as it stood a local authority would have to decide at once whether it would purchase a tramway or not. It could not retain the option of purchase for 21 years. Then, the right of the local authority to purchase even under the original order was rendered subject to the discretion of the Light Railway Commissioners in the first place, and to the discretion of the Board of Trade in the second place. In the Committee upstairs—he was only referring to tramways, and not to light railways—the Government inserted words which made it absolutely imperative that any amending order relating to railways constructed under this Act should not only be, like the original order, at the discretion of the Light Railway Commissioners and of the Board of Trade, but also at the discretion of the promoters of the tramway, without whose consent no order for purchase by the local authority could then be made. The whole of the rights of local authorities with regard to tramways would be imperilled and swept away by this Bill if the promoters of the lines adopted its procedure in preference to the procedure under the Tramways Act. That was a matter which seriously deserved the consideration of Her Majesty's Government before the Bill passed into law. These matters could not be raised on Report because they raised questions of rating; and for the same reason it was impossible for the Government to deal with either point in another place. He, therefore, ventured to ask Her Majesty's Government to consent to the recommittal of the Bill, and especially with regard to the question of tramways. It seemed to him a matter of very grave importance that the Government, before they passed this Bill into law, should consider how far they were justified in modifying the present state of the law and the statutory rights now enjoyed by local authorities under the Act of 1870.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon) said he was quite unable to accept the Motion. The hon. Gentleman was himself a member of the Grand Committee before which the Bill came, and he had ample opportunity of raising these questions then and did not avail himself of it. Having regard to the fact that the Bill took several days in Committee, it was rather hard now to ask the House to consider these matters. ["Hear, hear!"] The hon. Gentleman's main point was in connection with tramways, and he wished a provision to be inserted which would enable a local authority, if they found one of their railways was a success, to purchase it at practically the cost of the material of which it was made.

*MR. CHANNING: I only referred to tramways.

MR. RITCHIE: Yes, but there is no distinction between tramways and light railways under the Bill. He thought that enterprise would be very largely stopped if a local authority could wait until they saw that one of these railways was a success and then come forward and demand to purchase it. That was a most unreasonable request to make, and would greatly interfere with the making of these railways. There was a good deal to be said for the division of rates between owner and occupier, but this was a feeble way of approaching the subject. A rate separate from all the others would have to be levied, and that could only be done at an enormous cost of trouble and expense to the local authority.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN said he was in favour of imposing the whole rate in respect of light railways on the freeholder, and letting the tenant on whom the rate was assessed deduct it from his rent in the same way that the property tax was now deducted. There would be no trouble or expense if the light railway rate were made a separate item and charged and set ont separately in the demand note. When the freeholder's property was permanently improved he should bear the whole charge.

DR. CLARK supported the Amendment.

Question put, "That the words 'now read the Third time' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 31.—(Division List, No. 359.)

On the question "That the Bill be read the Third time,"

MR. CALDWELL said the Bill involved considerable constitutional changes. Parliament had the sole power of giving the compulsory power of purchase and of displacing the occupiers of the soil. Even in the case of a Provisional Order Bill giving the Secretary for Scotland, the Local Government Board or the Irish Office the power of compulsory purchase, the Bill had to pass through both Houses of Parliament like any other Bill. But for the first time this Bill proposed that Parliament should surrender its powers in that respect to the Board of Trade, and there was no appeal to Parliament, from any Order the Board of Trade might authorise for the making of a light railway. A new principle was also introduced in connection with the question of compensation. The Board of Trade was to be allowed to appoint a sole arbitrator who was to decide the question of compensation between the railway company and the proprietor of the land. That was a novel and extraordinary power. The Board of Trade was to be given the power to decide whether a certain light railway should or should not be submitted to Parliament. Such a proposal was monstrous, and if it had emanated from a Liberal Government they would have heard loud objections made to it. [*Laughter and loud cries of* "Divide!"] The powers surrendered to the Board of Trade in this case were far greater than any powers which, it was alleged, were to be surrendered under the Home Rule Bill. [*Laughter and loud cries of* "Divide!"] In the latter case, some power was reserved to the Imperial Parliament, but in this case no power of veto of any kind was reserved to Parliament. [*Cries of* "Divide!"] At present the Board of Trade was liable to Parliament for any order they issued; but in this instance they would be free to act independently of Parliament. Another matter to which he wished to refer was the important question of rating. [*Cries of* "Oh, oh!" and "Divide!"] He complained that through the action taken by the Government on the Bill, he and other Members had been prevented from fully discussing the rating clauses of the Measure, from moving Amendments with the object of providing that the rates should be divided between the landlord and tenant, and from having the opportunity of dividing the House on the matter. Thus they had been altogether prevented from discussing the point on whom the rates should fall. [*Cries of* "Divide!"] It would not be denied that a railway in a district was a great benefit to the community. There was no question that it largely increased the value of the land, and yet, according to the Bill, the whole rate which might be necessary was to be levied upon the tenants. In Scotland the rate was divided between the landlord and tenant, and he objected to any alteration of the practice. Then there were the farmers who had no particular interest in light railways. ["Oh!" *and interruption.*] He must say he never sat in a Parliament where there was such an amount of interruption as that which proceeded from the Party opposite. [*Ironical cheers and* "Hear, hear!"] All that they wanted was that they should give them a fair opportunity of stating their views. If they cared to let them closure them, and not howl them down. ["Hear, hear!"]

*SIR C. DILKE said that his hon. Friend had given the same reasons as those advanced by Lord Salisbury with regard to the Parish Councils Bill in the matter of allotments. He therefore could not vote with his hon. Friend.

Main Question put and agreed to; Bill read the Third time, and passed.

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### TELEGRAPH MONEY BILL.

Read a Second time, and committed for To-morrow.

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### SUPPLY [24TH JULY] REPORT.

Order read, for Further Consideration of Postponed Resolutions—

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS II.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £24,597, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Public Works in Ireland,"—

MR. T. M. HEALY called attention to the fact that £15,000 had been expended on the new library in Dublin which had been completed since January last and yet it could not be opened because the Government would not provide the necessary sanitary accommodation. The consequence was that the junior bar was condemned to the mephitic atmosphere of the old library. He hoped the Board of Works was not wholly, though they were, he believed, partly in fault. The Board of Works in Dublin would never put anything into writing, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to get them to do something on this question of sanitary accommodation, and to get something from them in writing on the subject.

MR. HANBURY said that so far as his recollection went the sole fund available was the £15,000. It so happened that there had been a larger amount of money spent in respect of certain details in connection with the library than had been anticipated. But he was glad to inform the hon. Gentleman that the Board of Works had arranged that the sanitary works should be undertaken at once. Of the £15,000 a sum of £600 had been set aside for a new Land Commission Court, but as there was now no new Land Commission Court to be provided there would be ample money to carry out the whole of the original programme.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I am obliged to the hon. Gentleman for his explanation.

Resolution agreed to.

### Class III.

"3. That a sum, not exceeding £41,825, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland."

Mr. DILLON called attention to the case of a man named Keating who was charged in the Mayor's Court, Clonmel, with stealing two head of cattle. After the case had been gone into at considerable length the magistrate decided that the charge was so serious that he would not deal with it summarily, but would commit that man for trial. The solicitor applied for bail, but the police opposed the application and the magistrate refused it. The man pleaded guilty at the Assizes, and the Judge said that the Crown had acted with great leniency in not pressing the case. The man was only bound over to come up for judgment, and ordered to restore the cattle and pay damages. Between the hearing by the magistrate and the trial the police had found that the man was an emergency man, and that was why the prosecution was not pressed. It would have been very different if the cattle had been stolen from instead of by an emergency man. This was by no means an isolated case, but illustrated the practice of the Crown prosecutors for a long time past. There was another case. Three poor fishermen went out on the Shannon at night; they were followed by bailiffs who demanded to search the boat, they refused, and one of the bailiffs fired four shots from a revolver, shooting one of the fishermen in the chest. Cross prosecutions were brought, but the Grand Jury of Ennis, which included six Conservatives and the employer of the bailiff, threw out the Bill against the bailiff and returned a true Bill against the fisherman who was still lying in gaol suffering from his wound. He asked that these cases should be inquired into, and that if the fisherman were still in prison he should be liberated.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL called attention to the case of Michael Hopkins, who was sentenced in 1891 to 24 years' penal servitude in consequence of the death of a man called Fox, of whom he was alleged to have caused the boycotting. A man tried for a similar offence in 1889 received only five years' penal servitude He hoped the Attorney General would look into the inequality of these sentences.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to comment on the sentence inflicted by the judges.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL hoped that the Attorney General for Ireland would consider the facts in each of the cases to which he had drawn attention, and that the right hon. Gentleman would advise the Lord Lieutenant to exercise the prerogative of mercy if the facts were found to be as he had stated.

Mr. T. M. HEALY complained of the high-handed conduct of the so-called conservators of the Shannon, who were unjustifiably using the powers conferred by the Lough Neagh Act on the pretence that that Measure applied to the Shannon. He also complained of the frequent revolver-firing by bailiffs at night on that river. He next drew attention to the attempted proselytising case at Cork. In connection with this case Mr. Justice Holmes, soaring above all party and religious prejudices, had condemned the conduct of the head constable concerned. The learned judge said that the head constable's action was not in conformity with his duty, and that he must have known that the whole proceeding from the first to the last was a sham and a humbug. The mother of the child was induced to pretend that her children were Protestants, in order that the child might be sent to a Protestant Industrial School. The head constable put the woman up to swearing in open Court that the children were Protestant; in other words, he suborned her to commit perjury. The woman was induced to make mis-statements with regard to the age of the children and their religion, and the head constable was condemned by the learned Judge for aiding and abetting the misrepresentation. Two Canons of the Church of England were also concerned in the matter. If a Catholic official were to kidnap Protestant children in order that they might be sent to a Catholic institution, all England would be up in arms against what it would call papal tyranny. He expected to hear from the Government a scathing condemnation of such practices as those disclosed in this case at Cork. The head constable, he held, ought to have been dismissed at once; and what was to be said about the two distinguished divines, who had induced the mother to swear that her children were not Roman Catholics? These clergymen were supposed to be disciples of our Saviour, who said "Swear not at all."

*MR. W. JOHNSTON: I know one of these clergymen, and he is utterly incapable of the conduct imputed to him.

*MR. SPEAKER: Whether the conduct of the clergymen ought to be reprehended or not, I do not see how it is relevant.

MR. T. M. HEALY said his point was that the Government ought to arraign these gentlemen, with the head constable, for conspiracy. He wanted to know why they had not been arraigned, and why the head constable was now walking about in his jacket and stripes in the Queen's service instead of being hunted out of it as he would have been if he had been a Catholic?

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND said the hon. Member asked why these two clergymen had not been indicted for conspiracy with the head constable? The answer was simply because there was no evidence whatever against them. The head constable was guilty of an error of judgment, and so deserved the censure of the learned Judge. But there was not a particle of evidence to show that he entered into a conspiracy with the woman. On the contrary, there was not the smallest doubt that he himself was deceived. He was about to be punished, and when the hon. Member saw what his punishment was he would consider it adequate to the offence he really committed which was not that imputed to him. With regard to the case of Michael Hopkins, who was sentenced to 24 years' penal servitude, it did not come within his province to interfere with the remission of punishments. All he could say was that if there were any special circumstances in the case and a memorial was presented it would be carefully considered. As to the fishery case referred to by the hon. Member for East Mayo, if the hon. Gentleman had given him notice of his intention to call attention to it, he would have inquired into the circumstances. His recollection was that when these poachers were called upon to stand they refused, and endeavoured to beat the bailiff with their oars and that the latter fired his revolver in self defence. The Grand Jury threw out the bill against the bailiff, and returned a true bill against the other. If it was the case that the bailiff acted in self defence when attacked by several men, who attempted to beat him, the Grand Jury did not exceed their jurisdiction and authority in throwing out the Bill. But he would inquire into the matter to see if there was any miscarriage of justice such as the hon. Member suggested. In the case of the man who pleaded guilty to stealing two cows, there was not a single fact to establish the charge of corruption on the part of the prosecution and the Judge. The hon. Member said it was in accordance with the usual practice in Ireland with regard to emergency men and planters. He repudiated this. He did not believe any such practice prevailed. He had never known it. He should set his face against it, and he was sure every Judge on the

Bench was incapable of resorting to it. But he would inquire in the matter, and he should be greatly surprised if he found anything to justify the accusation of the hon. Member.

**Dr. TANNER** (Cork, Mid) said, the Government should put Canon Harley on his trial to see if the charge made against him was true. Still, he had known the Canon a good many years, and did not believe him guilty. When the First Lord of the Treasury was Chief Secretary he put Irish Members of Parliament promptly on trial, and let this Protestant clergyman and Canon of the so-called Church of Ireland be put on his trial too.

**The ATTORNEY GENERAL** said that the Government had no power to put upon his trial a man who had committed no criminal offence.

Resolution agreed to.

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## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman of Ways and Means, in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

### SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1896.

**Mr. J. CALDWELL** (Lanark, Mid.) said that the objection that he had to make to this clause was that it proposed to effect a very important change in a very well-understood principle of the land laws of Scotland. Under the existing principle, a man who purchased property must be upon the register before he acquired a full title to it. By the Bill, power would be given to the local authority to acquire the land which they might require for carrying the Act into operation without registering their title. They were entitled to ask the Lord Advocate why the Government were going to dispense with what was an essential requisite in every transaction in Scotland, that the title must be on the register.

*Attorney General for Ireland.*

**Mr. ALEXANDER ASHER** (Elgin Burghs) hoped the hon. Member for Mid Lanark would not insist upon this Amendment, which was based upon an entire misapprehension. The words in the clause were merely inserted for the purpose of giving local authorities power to purchase land for the purpose of the Act of 1893. The Amendment, if carried, instead of extending would limit the power of local authorities under the original Act of 1889. The clause did not in any way limit the powers of the local authorities as to the completion of title, and the hon. Member might rest content that local authorities, like every reasonable man, would take care to complete their title.

Amendment negatived; clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3,—

### DEFINING SECTION 96 (2) OF 53 & 54 VICT. C. 70.

Section ninety-six, Sub-section two, of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, shall be read and construed as if the words "and any Acts amending the same" had been inserted after "1871," and as if the words "in the case of a rural sanitary authority" had been inserted after the words "provided that" occurring in that sub-section.

**Mr. CALDWELL** moved to add at the end of the clause—

"Provided that any expenditure that any burgh within the meaning of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, may make under the provisions of this or of the recited Acts shall be defrayed out of a rate to be levied along with but as a separate rate from the general improvement rate leviable under said Burgh Police (Scotland) Act where such general improvement rate is levied, but where such rate is not levied then by a rate to be imposed and levied in the same manner as if it were the general improvement rate, with all the powers of imposition, collection, and recovery applicable to that rate."

The object of the clause was to remove a defect in the Housing of Working Classes Act which prevented burghs from borrowing money for the purposes of the Act. But it happened that the powers to which the section, if passed, would give vitality, imposed the rate in burghs solely on the occupiers, whereas in the counties under the same Act the rate was divided between the owner and occupier. What had been the effect of this legislation? Why, that with the one only exception of Peterhead, the burghs of Scotland had not taken advantage of the Act, and the reason was, because the rates had been wholly and most unfairly imposed on the ratepayer. [*Cries of* "Divide!"] The burghs of Scotland maintained that there should be a fair division of the rates between the occupier and owner; but whenever the question of rating had been raised in Parliament, the rates had been thrown wholly on the occupier. [*Cries of* "Divide!" *and interruption.*] He and others had made up their minds in future, whenever that was again sought to be done, to move Amendments, and take Divisions of the House against it. Sympathy and respect could only be expected for the law when it was based on equitable principles, and there could be no pretence to equity when the rates, which should in fairness be equally divided between the owner and occupier, were thrown on the tenants alone. He begged to move the Amendment standing on the Paper in his name.

MR. ASHER said he should oppose the Amendment. The Bill had been introduced by the Government for the purpose of rectifying a mistake that occurred in the Act of 1892. By that mistake boroughs were excluded from the benefits of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. ["Hear, hear!"] The Bill, as introduced, was strictly limited to the correction of that mistake. ["Hear, hear!"] The Amendment of his learned Friend introduced the highly contentious question of the incidence of rating. He did not oppose the Amendment on its merits or demerits, but on the ground that it was not germane to the Bill for the introduction of which he was much obliged to the Government.

Amendment negatived.

Bill reported.

Motion moved, "That the Bill be put down for to-morrow."

*SIR C. DILKE asked what was meant by "to-morrow," Friday or Saturday? If Saturday, would the Leader of the House state what Business he intended to take on that day.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that, as regarded Saturday's sitting, it was very important in the general interest of the House that they should get on. He was not desirous that there should be a long sitting; indeed, he hoped that the sitting would be a short and fruitful one.

Bill, as amended, to be considered upon Saturday.

## PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

On the motion "That the Bill be now read a Second time,"

*SIR C. DILKE asked if there was any additional money given under this Bill?

MR. T. M. HEALY said his experience of these Bills was that they covered a job of some sort. He instanced the case of a railway in Ireland which had been "sold for a song," whereas if they had known what was going on, a little syndicate could have been formed and the money of the taxpayers saved. They were unable to get information from the Board of Works, which operated behind. If he was inaccurate in his statement, why should they not be supplied with the papers and all the facts in connection with this transaction. The late Government had been utterly remiss in its conduct of this transaction. They had given away a most valuable railway to another railway company, and had thereby prevented public competition, and they had defrauded the unfortunate solicitor (who had since died) who had a lien for his charge of the amount that he was entitled to get for advancing money to the railway company out of his own pocket.

*MR. HANBURY said that without expressing any opinion upon the transaction himself, he thought that at any rate, in future, none of these sales should take place without public competition. Since he had been at the Treasury he had insisted very strictly on that condition, one or two cases having arisen. But they had to deal with facts as they were; it was utterly impossible for them to recover their loan, and this Bill simply accepted the facts and wiped off a loan which they could not recover. In the schedule of the Bill there were what appeared to be certain remissions, but they did not forfeit any right to recover the money. All that was done was to cease to treat the loans as assets of the Local Loans Fund. The general purport of the Bill was to enable the National Debt Commissioners to issue certain moneys to the Public Works Board in Ireland and the Public Works Loan Commissioners.

**Mr. J. P. FARRELL** asked whether the canals in Ireland would come under the operation of the Bill?

***Mr. HANBURY** said that under the Bill the Public Works and Loans Commissioners would have authority to loan money to canals in England, but in Ireland that power was vested in the Board of Works.

**Mr. J. P. FARRELL** said something ought to be done with the Royal Canal in Ireland, which was in a shocking and dangerous condition for want of dredging.

**Dr. TANNER** asked why, if the rate of interest for loans was reduced in connection with the Scotch fisheries, the same advantage was not extended to Ireland?

***Mr. HANBURY** said that what the Bill really did was to put the Scotch Fishery Board in the position of a Harbour Board to which money could be loaned under the Harbours and Passing Tolls Act at 3¼ per cent. He did not think that was below the rate current in Ireland for loans under that Act.

Bill read a Second time.

*Mr. Hanbury.*

## PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [19th May] on Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), further adjourned till To-morrow.

## BISHOPRIC OF BRISTOL ACT AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

## WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY GUARANTEE BILL.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

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## STANNARIES BILL [H.L.].

Read a Second time, and committed for Monday next.

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## MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [15th May] further adjourned till To-morrow.

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## MILITARY WORKS (MONEY).

Order for Committee thereupon read, and discharged.

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## BURGLARY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Monday next.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House Adjourned at Ten minutes before Three o'clock.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Friday, 31st July 1896.*

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

### BELFAST CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3ª, with the Amendments; passed, and returned to the Commons.

### JUDICIAL TRUSTEES BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order); further Amendments made; Bill to be read 3ª on Tuesday next; and to be printed as amended.—[No. 230.]

### RAILWAYS (IRELAND) BILL.

THE EARL OF RANFURLY, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, explained that it had for its object the further development of the resources of districts in Ireland. It placed additional powers in the hands of the Lord Lieutenant, and enabled him to certify the Treasury of any cases where a railway was necessary for the proper development of a district which was, from exceptional circumstances, unable to make such railway without State aid. The amount available under the Bill was £500,000, which might be advanced either in the form of free grants, as in the Act of 1889, or as a loan, or partly as a loan and partly in free grants. In order that the advantages should be safeguarded there were provisions in the Bill for the working and maintenance of the undertakings. Power was given to landowners to assist in the development of the country by means of these railways, by granting land on exceptionally favourable terms, and in certain cases to assist with money, provided the Board of Works sanctioned it, the money being placed as a charge upon the land. The Bill provided that, where free grants of money were given by the Treasury for ten years at least the local taxation should be on the original value of the land, and not upon its value when converted into a railway. Clause 9 enabled free grants to be made for the purpose of building piers, establishing cars, steamboats, and the maintenance of the same or any such works as might be considered necessary for the opening up of the congested districts. He begged to move that the Bill be read a Second time. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN welcomed the Bill as a Measure which was likely to confer the greatest benefit on various parts of Ireland, and pointed out that the railways which had been already constructed, and which were called "Balfour's Railways," had been the means of opening up congested parts of the West of Ireland, and of doing incalculable good.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

### LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE), in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, observed that the Land Bills of 1887 and 1891 were conducted through their Lordships' House by his noble Friend Lord Cadogan with the general approval of their Lordships, and it was just possible it might be a matter of surprise to the House or the public that he should not be intrusted with the task of moving the Second Reading of this Bill. But he was told there was a well-recognised understanding that Her Majesty's representative in Ireland did not take part in contentious business in Parliament, and for that reason Lord Cadogan naturally would not take charge of the present Bill. He presumed it had been placed in his hands for the reason that, being himself an Irish landlord, he might be supposed to have some special knowledge of the subject. That might be in one sense an advantage to him. In another he felt that it was not entirely advantageous, because it brought him, he was afraid, into a certain amount of antagonism with many of his noble Friends from Ireland with whom in former years he had frequently acted during the course of these discussions. He was afraid he should be regarded by them, if he might use a simile drawn from his Eastern experiences, as the tame elephant, to whom was intrusted the delicate duty of inveigling his wilder brethren into captivity. [*Laughter.*] He was consoled when he reflected that upon the only occasion when he witnessed an operation of that kind the tame elephant, though he certainly experienced extremely rough usage while the operations were in progress, was, a few hours after their completion, apparently upon terms of good fellowship with his wilder compeers. ["Hear, hear!"] This Bill was a Bill for further amending the law relating to occupation and ownership of land in Ireland, and he could well understand that many of their Lordships should regard with feelings approaching to dismay another Bill for the purpose of dealing with a subject which had so often engaged the attention of Parliament. They were proud in this country of their Parliamentary institutions, but he thought there was no part of those institutions of which they had less reason to be proud than their performances in what he might describe as the technical preparation of their Statutes. He doubted whether the Statute-books of any other country produced enactments so intricate, so diffuse, and so little easy to follow as the Statutes which were passed by the British Houses of Parliament. ["Hear, hear!"] He had sometimes heard it said it was the draftsmen who were to blame, but in his humble opinion the fault as a general rule lay not so much with the professional gentlemen who were intrusted with the duty of drafting their Statutes as with Parliament itself which too often, he was afraid, failed to look clearly and courageously in the face the principles which it endeavoured to embody in its legislation. ["Hear, hear!"] He remembered the other day his noble Friend, Lord Dunraven, saying that their legislation was, as a general rule, founded upon compromise, and, therefore, illogical. He thought that that true saying was eminently true of their Irish legislation. He should not attempt to review the series of Acts which they had passed with regard to Irish land during the last few years, but he would say of the great Act of 1881 that no Statute ever carried upon its face more distinctly the impress of compromise than that Act. They accepted in 1881 the three principles known conventionally as the three F's. They knew that, in accepting them, they were preparing the way for something like an agrarian revolution, and but few of them knew whither that revolution was going to carry them. What did they do? They endeavoured to take precautions against the injustice which some of them anticipated by means of a system of exceptions, of precautions, of safeguards, of exclusions. He believed there was no more dangerous system of proceeding than that of first conceding great principles and then attempting to protect a part of the persons affected by them by means of exemptions and exclusions of this kind. The difficulty of drawing a hard and fast line in a case of this kind was immense, because the difference between the class which they sought to protect and that to which they could not accord protection was a difference of degree, and wherever they drew their line they would find that the man who was just upon the one side of it or upon the other conceived, and perhaps not without reason, that he had a valid grievance. What had been the result? Instead of giving to the tenant-farmers of Ireland a simple and easily intelligible land code, they had placed in their hands a series of measures so intricate that they puzzled and baffled the intelligence of the highest legal authorities. They had given them a code which it had been necessary to patch and to alter again and again—a code which had never been accepted as final because it had never looked squarely in the face the great principles which lay at the root of these agrarian questions. The Bill which he offered to their Lordships did not pretend to substitute for the present land system of Ireland a thoroughly scientific system. What it did propose to do was to clear up the law where they believed it was possible to clear it up. To deal with some of the hard cases which the experience of the last few years had brought to light, and last, and certainly not least, to remove some of those obstacles which had hitherto impeded the progress of their land-purchase legislation. Many hard things had been said with regard to this Bill; and amongst others Her Majesty's Government had been told that, after opposing, when it was in opposition, the proposals of the late Government, it had, now that it had come into power, taken up those proposals and placed them before Parliament. [*Cheers.*] That statement was cheered by the noble Lords behind him, and he was glad of the opportunity of briefly calling the attention of the House to the difference—as he conceived the fundamental difference — between the proposals which they now submitted, and the proposals submitted by the late Government. The Bill of the late Government shortened the statutory term—reduced it from 15 to 10 years. Not only did it do that prospectively, but it shortened current statutory terms to ten years, a very far-reaching proposal, involving the premature admission of many thousands of tenants to a second hearing of their cases in the Land Courts. The present Bill left the law unchanged in that respect. The Bill of the late Government dealt in a very drastic manner with the question of exclusions. The grazing farms up to a valuation of £200, were admitted to the benefit of the Act; it contained a new definition which would have had the effect of admitting a very large quantity of land in the neighbourhood of towns and villages to the fair rent clause of the Act of 1881. The Bill of last year contained a provision under which future tenancies, when the rent had been paid continuously for five years, might be converted into present tenancies. The present Bill contained no such proposals. The Bill of last year deprived the landlord of his right of pre-emption, the only check, so far as he was aware, upon the extravagant price now so frequently given for tenant-right. The present Bill, in the case of a *bonâ fide* sale, left the landlord his right of pre-emption. Under the Bill of last year the landlord was deprived of all remedies for the recovery of arrears exceeding those due for two years; the present Bill left to the landlord the remedies of an ordinary creditor for arrears beyond the two years' arrears which he could recover by ejectment for non-payment of rent. In regard to improvements, the Bill of last year altered the definition in such a way as to bring within the operation of the Act ordinary acts of husbandry such as tillages—a very dangerous addition. It gave the whole result of the improvements to the tenant regardless of that which was due to the landlord's interest in the soil. It contained a provision which was apparently intended to enact that the large sums for which the tenant's occupation interest was frequently sold should be deducted in calculating the fair rent of his holding, and, finally, it swept away all those safeguards contained in the 4th Clause of the Act of 1870, including that most important safeguard under which the tenant was prevented from claiming immunity from rent in respect of ordinary improvements made at a very remote period of time. And in the same way the Bill of last year abolished all those reasonable exceptions, made in favour of the landlord, from the general law that improvements were presumed to belong to the tenant. He should show, he hoped, that their Bill dealt in a very different and in a much more cautious spirit with this question of improvements, and that it left to the landlord, above all things, the most important precautions of the time limit beyond which the presumption in the tenant's favour did not operate, and beyond which he could not claim indemnity of rent for improvements. The Bill of last year contained no provisions dealing with the important question of purchase, which, as he hoped their Lordships would admit, they had dealt with liberally and courageously in this Bill. [*Cheers.*] He had said enough, he hoped to show their Lordships that whether their Bill was a good Bill or a bad one, it was certainly not the same Bill which was laid before the House of Commons last year by the late Government. Passing to the present Bill, he had in the first place to say a few words upon the manner in which it dealt with the important question of improvements. They had endeavoured to give effect to what was on the face of it a very simple principle that the tenant was to be given protection for his own improvements. That was a simple proposition, but he would venture to say that it would be impossible to find in the English language a sentence containing a greater number of pitfalls. How did they define an improvement?

What was complete protection? When could they say that a tenant was rented on the improvements and not upon the soil to which the improvement was attached? Around those questions, and questions of the same kind there had raged a controversy of the acutest description, and he was bound to say it seemed to him somewhat out of proportion to the real magnitude of the interests which were affected. In other parts of the United Kingdom landlord and tenant made their own bargain with regard to improvements. ["Hear, hear!"] In Ireland their ways were less business-like and more easy going, and he thought it was inevitable that this should have been so. In Ireland the large majority of holdings were extremely small, and upon these small holdings it was humanly impossible that the landlord could undertake the task of executing improvements, of equipping and maintaining the farm in the same way in which he undertook that task upon the larger holdings in other parts of the United Kingdom. ["Hear, hear!"] The result had been, no doubt that the Irish landlord had escaped a liability which his English and Scotch brethren had not escaped; but, on the other hand, it was to be remembered—and this was abundantly established by every Committee and Commission which had investigated the question—that, in consideration of this practice, under which improvements were made by the tenant and not by the landlord, Irish rents had been, as a general rule, lower than English and Scotch rents, and had differed from them in this, that whereas English and Scotch rents had been from time to time adjusted according to the movement of prices, which as they all knew had been upward prices for a great number of years, Irish rents were, as a general rule, allowed to remain unchanged for very long periods of time. This, he took it, was the origin of that tenant-right—that occupation interest—which the Irish tenant had acquired, and which they all knew maintained, even in those days of agricultural depression, an extremely high price. What he had said described not inaccurately the general practice in Ireland, but when they came to the case of the individual farmer the matter became much more puzzling. The Government had, no doubt, given the Land Courts an enormously difficult task to perform. They had called upon them to ascertain, after an interval of many years, what was or what ought to have been the understanding between the landlord and the tenant, and what ought to have been or was the result of that understanding in so far as it affected the question of the ownership of the improvements upon the soil. Of the official witnesses who had been examined on this point some had affirmed that in deciding this question of compensation they were guided by principles which they described. Others, he thought more candid, had admitted that they followed what was generally known as a rule of thumb, and he ventured to think that, in spite of all the pains they might take, they would find that the rule of thumb would always to a certain extent prevail in those matters. They might lay down principles as minutely as they pleased, but those principles were applied not to exact quantities—not to something which they could measure and divide, as they could measure and divide for instance, securities or shares in an industrial enterprise—but they were applied to apportionments in regard to which the Court was obliged to proceed from first to last, upon conjecture and assumption. The Court could not prove mathematically the value of the thing which it had to decide, nor could it prove that the division it made was really in accordance with the principles by which it assumed to be guided. But, in spite of this, he conceived that it was their duty to give to the Land Courts all the assistance which they could give them in dealing with the question, and the Government had endeavoured to do so in this Bill. Their Lordships would remember that a great part of the confusion which surrounded this question had arisen from the fact that the law was to be found not only in the Land Act of 1881, but also in the older Act of 1870. There could be no doubt that it was the intention of Parliament that those two Acts should be read together, and indeed during the course of the Debates he could remember that they used to be told that they were to rely upon the Act of 1870 as a corrective of certain anomalies which they thought they had detected in the Act of 1881. But the Act of 1870 was clearly inapplicable, in certain cases, to the condition of things which arose under the Act of 1881. The Act of 1870 was intended to deal with the case of the tenant who was to be compensated on quitting his holding. The Act of 1881, on the contrary, provided for the determination of the rent of a tenant, not who was quitting his holding, but who intended to remain upon it, and who came to the Court to obtain a settlement of the term upon which he was to continue in possession. It was obvious that some of the enactments which applied to the one case would not apply to the other. He would take one illustration. Under the Act of 1870 the tenant could not claim compensation on quitting his holding for an improvement which he had executed in contravention of a contract not to claim compensation for such an improvement. It was perfectly just that if that tenant quitted his holding the landlord should not be called upon to compensate him. But if the tenant remained in possession of his holding, was it not obvious that it would be inequitable for the landlord to charge the tenant rent upon that improvement? The two cases were wholly different, and the Government proposed to correct the law where they found it to be inapplicable in those respects. The way in which they dealt with the 4th Clause of the Act of 1870 was this—they said that nothing in that clause should authorise the allowance of rent upon improvements executed by the tenant, and they then re-enacted in the clearest language possible, those portions of the 4th Clause of the Act of 1870 which, in their opinion, were applicable to the question of improvements and which they considered ought to survive. The earlier portion of their clause was based upon the recommendation made by a Committee of their Lordships' House presided over by the late Lord Cairns. That recommendation was to the effect that it was desirable that the Court should lay down, in the first place, the fair rent which in its opinion the holding should command, assuming that the improvements upon it belonged to the landlord. The Government proposed that that should be done, and that the improvements made by the tenant should be clearly and fully specified—that the particulars should be given of the nature, character, and present value of those improvements, the date at which they were made, and all the deductions which should be made from the full rent in respect of the improvements. They were under the impression that the fuller and minuter record which the Courts would now be required to provide would to some extent meet a complaint which had been made very frequently, to the effect that rents were reduced without giving the landlord any opportunity of knowing what were the data upon which the Court had arrived at its conclusion. Their clause proceeded to enact that where improvements had been executed under a contract for a valuable consideration the tenant should be deemed to have been compensated only to the extent to which he had received such valuable consideration from the landlord. They then proceeded to define what was a valuable consideration, and although they admitted that the mere letting of the land, the mere giving of a lease, was not, as the Courts sometimes held, to be regarded as amounting to a valuable consideration, they said that in every case where the rent had been fixed, or reduced, or abated, or allowed to remain unaltered with the intention—and that intention was not only expressed or implied—of recouping the tenant, then valuable consideration should be held to have been given. That was the outline of their clause, and he hoped the clause would remove some of the ambiguities of which complaint had been made. He believed it would render it easier for the Courts to decide how much of a particular improvement survived at any given time, and how that surviving value could be apportioned as between the owner and occupier of the soil. Wih regard to the question of exclusions, which was an extremely technical one, it would be sufficient, he thought, if he briefly stated to the House those whom they proposed to admit to the benefit of the fair rent clauses of the Land Act. In the first place, they admitted the tenants of grazing farms of a valuation over £50 and under £100. Those tenants, they were advised, were of the same class as the ordinary tenants of mixed farms or dairy farms, who were now admitted to the benefit of the Act, and they were unable to see that the difference between them was sufficiently marked to justify

their exclusion. Then with respect to demesne lands, they admitted to the benefit of the Acts tenants of demesne land which had ceased to be demesne land, and for the purpose of determining whether it had ceased to be demesne land they had adopted words which they believed exactly expressed the present law as laid down by the Judges. In regard to sub-letting their clause admitted to the advantages of fair-rent tenants who had sub-let a house which was not their own dwelling-house, if that house had not been erected in contravention of a contract or of statutory conditions; and in regard to the sub-letting of land, they admitted tenants where the sub-letting had been to an extent not exceeding one-eighth of the holding, providing that it had not been made in breach of a contract or of statutory conditions, and provided the sub-letting took place either before the year 1887, or was virtually in substitution of a sub-letting made before that date. The only other class they admitted, and which were now excluded, were the tenants of holdings not wholly agricultural, and they did so upon the condition that the non-agricultural part of the holding remained outside the Land Act, and that the division of the holding was not injurious to the landlord's estate. He submitted that those admissions did not constitute any very serious invasion of the privileges of the owners of land in Ireland. The eighth clause had been the cause of a great deal of heart-burning; it enabled tenants who had been in the enjoyment of a customary privilege of turbary or similar easements to have that privilege secured to them. The tenants had been given by the law complete security of tenure in their holdings, and that was a security of which nobody proposed to deprive them. The belief of the Government was that in the case certainly of turbary, the very existence of the tenants depended upon their enjoyment of the necessary fuel supply. The case was not one of luxury or even of convenience; it was a case of absolute and indispensable necessity, and the Government were advised that there were cases where the privilege was not secured to the tenant by law, and where, therefore, he could not obtain the continued exercise of that privilege by application to the Court, but where, nevertheless, there were th
strongest reasons why he should not b
deprived of an advantage which he ha
enjoyed continuously for a number
years. They enacted that the privileg
should not be assured to the tenant u
less it was a very well-established cu
tomary privilege, unless it could b
shown to be really essential to th
reasonable enjoyment of the holding
unless it could be shown that its enjo
ment did no injury to the landlord
estate, and provided the Court was sati
fied that the terms upon which the priv
lege was enjoyed were reasonable term
They believed the safeguards we
sufficient, but if it could be shown to the
that further precautions were necessar
they would very gladly consider any pr
posals. ["Hear, hear!"] As to letting
by limited owners, they had inserted wor
which they conceived met the two prin
cipal objections raised on behalf of th
landlords. It was apprehended tha
under the clause a limited owner migh
alienate the family demesne or creat
tenancies under the Land Act to th
detriment of his successors. They ha
endeavoured to provide for both thos
points, and they hoped they had don
so effectually. He was glad to thin
the Purchase Clauses had met wit
general approval. The policy of lan
purchase had found favour with a
political parties, and there was a gener
feeling of disappointment at the slo
progress which had lately been achieve
in the matter of purchase. He believe
that the great impediment in the way
the operation of the Purchase Acts ha
been the state of the law with regard t
tenure. It was clear that the terms upo
which tenants were allowed to purcha
their holdings must be considered in r
lation to the terms upon which they we
allowed to remain in possession of the
holdings as tenants. It was one of th
paradoxes of the Irish Land Questio
that a farmer would prefer to pay a pe
manent rent of a larger amount rathe
than to pay a terminable annuity of
smaller amount. He would be aske
why, if that was so, they were tamperin
with the Purchase Clauses at th
moment. His answer was that the te
ants of Ireland knew perfectly well th
there were a number of points which ha
yet to be cleared up by legislation, an

that they would not buy their holdings so long as those points remained in suspense. He believed they would promote and not retard the cause of purchase by dealing, as they had attempted to do, with some of the most disputed points in the Tenure Clauses. Parliament, in the early days of purchase, thought it necessary to take very considerable precautions in order to protect the interests of the British public, by whom money had been advanced. Experience had shown them that many of those precautions had, in fact, proved unnecessary. It was a remarkable thing that, whereas the Government had advanced to the tenant-farmers of Ireland a sum exceeding £12,000,000—a sum which had been advanced to 25,000 different tenants—at this moment there were only some £4,000 of arrears. [*Cheers.*] It was proposed to give up what was known as the Purchasers' Insurance Fund, which had added a good deal to the complications and not very much to the safety of the transactions. They proposed that the county percentage should be used for the purpose of strengthening the Sinking Fund, and they allowed the Court at its discretion to dispense with the guarantee deposit. Where an estate was sold they allowed the owner to commute the tithe rent-charge upon much more advantageous terms, and then there was an ingenious arrangement under which, at the end of every period of ten years, the tenant's annuity was recalculated. The result of that arrangement would be that, after the first ten years, he would pay an annuity of 4 per cent. interest, not on the amount of his original debt, but on the amount of his original debt minus so much of it as had been paid by the accumulations of the Sinking Fund. The effect would be to give very marked relief to the earlier purchasers, and in connection with that they authorised the Court to release so much of the guarantee deposit as was represented by the amount of the debt which had been discharged by the accumulations of the Sinking Fund. He did not know whether he would be allowed to take credit for another concession—he meant the payment to the vendor in land stock rather than in cash, a feat of generosity which was not entirely spontaneous on their part. ["Hear, hear!"] He wished, next, to refer to two of the purchase clauses which he knew had been a good deal commented on by noble Lords from Ireland. In the first place, there was the 30th Clause, which expedited cases in the matter of sales. That clause, he admitted, presented a very serious difficulty in cases where the estate was incumbered, and where the title of the vendor was not clear. What happened in such cases? If the Court was satisfied that the transaction was *bona fide* the purchase-money was paid into Court, and the land was vested at once by a vesting order in the tenant. While the money remained in Court the vendor could only receive interest at 2¾ per cent. The examination of title might take a long time, and the vendor might find himself compelled for years to be content with that rate of interest instead of 4 per cent., which under present arrangements he would receive. Thus a vendor, if he had family charges or mortgages, might find himself in an extremely embarrassing position. ["Hear, hear!"] He fully admitted that in some cases this might act as a deterrent, and might prevent an owner from coming into Court at all. That was a very serious matter. What was the alternative? Someone must submit to the loss of interest. If it was not the owner of the estate, who was it to be? Was it to be incumbrancers? There did seem to him to be something to be said for the view that as the incumbrancer was virtually given a security equal to that of consols in lieu of the much more precarious security of Irish rents, he might be called upon to make some sacrifice. He knew that that was looked at askance, and he merely mentioned that as a point of great importance; and, if noble lords could suggest an easy way of meeting the difficulty, he was sure that Her Majesty's Government would be ready to consider the proposal. With regard to Clause 39, which expedited sales in the Landed Estates Court, that clause had, he believed, been more bitterly assailed than any other clause in the Bill. He was far from contending that the objections to it were necessarily frivolous, but he thought they were exaggerated. He ventured to say that the principle of the clause was eminently sound. The present state of things was intolerable.

It was bad for all concerned, and certainly bad for the Court, which had degenerated into a wholesale receiver of Irish rents. The clause altered no principle of the existing law. They considered these derelict estates and whether they should be allowed to remain for an indefinite time in the hands of the Court. At present it was no one's interest to extricate them, and the Government thought that it was most important that they should be extricated. They, therefore, proposed that, where an order had been made for a sale of an estate, or where it was placed in the hands of a receiver, the land Judge, after consulting with the Land Commission, should offer it to the tenants; but they had made it perfectly clear that that offer was not to be accepted until all the parties had had a full hearing, until their offers had been fully considered, and until the Court had thoroughly investigated the general circumstances and condition of the estate. They held that it was not desirable that a small minority of the tenants should be able to impede the main body. He commended the Bill to the House, and to noble lords from Ireland he would say that he believed, if they fully considered it, as he was sure they would, calmly and dispassionately—["Hear, hear!"]—they would find that it contained many excellent provisions, and that those provisions which they regarded with most suspicion would prove on closer examination to be less harmful than they supposed. When this Bill first saw the light a letter appeared in the London Press signed by several representative Irish landlords, amongst them the noble Marquess and the noble Duke behind him, and they said, "We desire again distinctly to state that we do not write as opponents of the Bill, some portions of which appear to be non-contentious or beneficial." That was the spirit in which the Bill was received, and he felt confident that that was the spirit in which it would be discussed at that stage, and in the much more important stage of Committee which lay before them. [*Loud cheers.*]

*THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY, after complimenting the noble Marquess on his speech, and welcoming him cordially on his return after ten years' absence from Ireland, said the Bill was not only a complicated but an incomprehensible one. The noble Marquess compared himself to a tame elephant whose duty it was to snare other elephants. They might not object to imprisonment at the hands of the noble Marquess, but he felt confident they would object to it at the termination of a number of years. He rose on behalf of the landowners in Ireland to say that they never had the slightest intention of opposing the Second Reading of this Measure. They considered that a Land Bill was necessary to remedy the imperfections of the Act of 1881, and to clear up some points of difficulty that existed, and they considered that in refusing to oppose the Second Reading of the Bill in the House of Commons the landowners had accepted the principle of the Bill, although they objected to certain of its details. Speaking on behalf of his brother landowners, and of a great number of the tenantry of Ireland — certainly of his own tenantry — he believed that neither party desired anything but what it was absolutely entitled to. He maintained, however, that the difficulties that had been created in the various Land Bills submitted to Parliament had been caused by one class endeavouring to obtain more than its just rights, and the other class had declined to accede to those requests. As both land-owning and land-occupying classes agreed that a Measure was necessary it would appear to have been no difficult task for a satisfactory Land Bill to be devised, but there was and ever would be a difficulty in satisfying all classes of the community, and it was an almost impossible task for any Government to frame a Bill which should be considered to be entirely non-controversial. He did think, however, that it would have been possible for the Government to have passed a Measure which would have given satisfaction to some sections of the community; but the present Bill gave no satisfaction whatever to any class of the community in Ireland. The Bill was not satisfactory to the loyal Irish supporters of the Government in the House of Commons, and no one would assert that it was acceptable to the Opposition in that House; it had been denounced by Mr. Dillon as a sham Bill and a fraud, the rejection of the Third Reading was approved by Mr. Davitt, while Mr. O'Brien had said a few days ago in Ireland that it was the worst Land Bill that ever was propounded. He wished to know, therefore, what section of the community was satisfied with the Bill? The Government had made three primary errors. He was not alluding to an error which was to his mind absolutely incomprehensible—the action of the Chief Secretary—who after consultation with representative Members of the Unionist Party, and land-owning class in Ireland, placed Amendments on the Paper in the House of Commons, which were several days afterwards, without rhyme or reason suddenly withdrawn. He thought they had a right to demand a reason for that extraordinary action, and no doubt a reason would be given. The first error which the Government made was in introducing a Bill of such vast magnitude at the fag-end of a Session; secondly, in endeavouring to convince themselves and others that the Bill was of a non-contentious character, whereas it bristled with controversies; and thirdly, and this was the most important error, in not consulting any one who was practically connected with the land from the landowning point of view before introducing the Bill into the House of Commons. ["Hear, hear!"] There existed in Ireland a body, which they ventured to think was a somewhat important body, known as the Landowners' Convention, which embraced almost every important landowner in Ireland as well as representatives of the landed interests from every part of Ireland, including land agents and others with great practical knowledge and experience on the subject. So far as he was aware, not one of those representatives was consulted by the Government before this Measure, which would interfere to a great extent with their interest and properties, was introduced. He had the greatest respect for the Lord Lieutenant and the Chief Secretary; the former was one of his oldest, most intimate, and valued friends, and he trusted that in the category of his personal friends he could number the Chief Secretary, and they would not, he knew, consider that he was saying anything derogatory to them when he said that until they went to Ireland in August last to be sworn into their respective positions, neither of them had set their foot on the soil of Ireland. They could not, therefore, have that practical knowledge of the wants of the land-owning class in that country which was requisite. Many English Ministers had gone to Ireland fully convinced that they were Heaven born and Heaven inspired Ministers destined by Providence to settle once for all the Irish question, but the Irish problem remained at the present time unsolved, and the reason was that English Ministers would never consult practical Irishmen on questions with which they were thoroughly acquainted with regard to a country in which they had been born and bred. He maintained that many of the difficulties which had developed might have been avoided if practical Irishmen had been consulted, and if that had been done in the present case the Bill would at all events have been satisfactory to somebody, instead of detested by everybody, and it would not have been so litigious in its character. This Land Bill should have been small and virtually non-controversial, embracing four points. They should first have made clear the position of the judicial tenant; secondly, they should have recognised that a reform was wanted in the procedure of the fixing of judicial rents; thirdly, they should have dealt with the question of improvements, and made clear what the law rerelating to this subject really was; and, fourthly, their Bill should contain provisions to advocate the system of purchase, as was done in the present Bill. The system of purchase was one to which he gave his hearty concurrence, and he admired that part of the Bill which dealt with this subject. He knew of cases in which tenants had re-sold their holdings for more years purchase than they had given for them. Why was it that the Government would not listen to the advice of Irishmen in this matter? The Government present Purchase Bill was more or less a recognition of the defects of the Purchase Bill of 1891. The Government of that day were told that unless they followed the advice of Irishmen their Bill in which they set apart 33 millions of money for the purposes of enabling the tenants to buy their holdings would be an absolute failure, and that unless the safeguards they indicated were less stringent the money might just as well be locked up in a chest. Those safeguards had been adopted and what had been the consequence? Why, out of the whole 33 millions of money set apart to carry out the objects of the Bill barely more than one-and-a-half millions had been taken up. The noble Lord below him had characterised this Bill as a blessing and a godsend to Ireland, but he should like to know in what way it would be so. When the Bill of 1891 was being passed the Irish Lords had advised the adoption of a system under which there would be a reduction in the amount of the instalments to be paid for the purchase of a holding every five years. It had now been determined that such a reduction should be made every ten years, and he confessed that he welcomed the adoption of such a system. The Irish Lords had then asked the Government to take their advice on other points, and the Governhad refused to accede to their request. But now, upon several points, the Government had given way and had carried that advice out in several instances. He did not think that any one could assert that the Purchase Bill of 1891 had been a success. But it would have been a success if the opinions of the Irish lords had been taken, and their present Bill might be made a success if these opinions were followed. The noble Marquess had dealt most ably with Clause 30 of the Bill, but he did not hesitate to tell the noble Lord that if that clause were persisted in it would kill the pet scheme of the Government, namely, land purchase in Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"] Land purchase was the keystone of the present Bill, and that would, undoubtedly, be killed if Clause 30 were permitted to remain in the Bill. He thought that he should be able to show their Lordships that, if that clause were retained, any landlord who sold a holding to a tenant would be nothing more or less than a fool. ["Hear, hear!"] A landlord who was prepared to sell a holding to a tenant had, in the first place, to sign a purchase agreement, and, if the Land Commissioners sanctioned the sale and were prepared to advance the purchase money, they were bound to issue a vesting order, the effect of which was that the purchase money was to be paid, not to the landlord, but into Court, where it would have to remain until the landlord had made out a good title. In the second place, the fee simple of the holding was then vested in the tenant for ever; and, in the third place, the holding was charged with the annuity which was to be paid to the State. The consequence was that, while the interests of the tenant and of the State were perfectly secured, the landlord's property was taken from him for ever, and the purchase money was locked up in Court until the landlord had made out his title. Let him tell their Lordships what proving of title meant. He himself had sold a great deal of his property, and the cost of proving his title had amounted to 3 per cent. of the value that the property realised. That was not a very beneficial bargain for a landlord who was receiving 4 per cent. from a good tenant by way of rent. But, in addition to that, it might take a landlord two or three years before he could prove his title; and during that period his purchase money would be locked up in Court, he only receiving 2½ per cent. interest upon it, whilst he might have to pay 5 per cent. interest on his mortgages on the property. What the landlord would get under those circumstances he left to their Lordships' imaginations. ["Hear, hear!"] In his view, the landlord would get nothing at all, and if he were wrong upon the point he hoped that the noble Marquess would set him right with regard to it. If he were right on the subject, it was the duty of their Lordships, in justice to the tenant, to the State, and to the unfortunate landlord, to insist upon Clause 30 being omitted from the Bill. The noble Marquess had alluded to the change which had been made in the mode in which the landlord was to receive payment for his property. Their Lordships would remember that, under the Bill of 1893, the landlords were to be paid in land stock, against the wish of the Unionist Members of Parliament, who desired that they should be paid in cash. But now that the land stock had gone up to £115, the Treasury refused to pay them in land stock, and said that they must be paid in cash. It would certainly be for the interests of the tenants that the landlords should be paid in land stock, because in that case the landlord would be able to take so many years less purchase for the

*Marquess of Londonderry.*

holdings. It was necessary in this case therefore that the Government should be saved from themselves. He desired to say a few words with regard to the class to which he belonged. He did not believe that they were, as the noble Marquess had said, unfortunate in being associated with Irish land. He was in hopes that if justice were done to Irish landlords, they might see the Irish land question settled for, at all events, a number of years, during which Ireland might be happy and prosperous. ["Hear, hear?"] He confessed, however, that he had been amazed when he read that Mr. Balfour, the First Lord of the Treasury, had said that no landlord in Ireland would be a penny the worse for any line in this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman had not among his many admirers a more devoted friend than himself, they had worked together, and he was aware of his marvellous ability and of the ingenuity of his mind, but he confessed that he was amazed when he read that statement of his. Could it be denied that every Act of Parliament that had been passed with the object of benefiting the Irish tenants, must act detrimentally to the interests of the land-owning class. Every one of the Acts of Parliament dealing with the Irish land question which had been passed during the last 26 years, had taken off another slice from the attenuated rights of the Irish landowner in a measure that was absolutely unknown to English or Scotch landowners. This Bill went beyond all others in admitting rich grazing farmers occupying farms up to £100 a year to have judicial rents fixed. Then Clauses 6 and 10 embraced provisions legalising thousands of lettings which had hitherto been absolutely illegal, to enable them, as it enabled those in the pasture holdings, to take advantage of the Fair Rent Courts, with the result (as they all knew) that there would be a still further fining down of the small margin which remained. Reductions of rent must necessarily mean reduction of income to the Irish landlords, so he was at a loss to know on what ground his right hon. Friend could say that no landlord under the Bill would be one penny the worse. He did not wish to say one word derogatory to the Sub-Commissioners entrusted with the task of reducing rents: but they certainly carried out their duties in an extraordinary manner, and he was really coming to the conclusion, after a speech by Lord Templetown, in which he drew attention to the facts, that a true remark was made by Mr. T. M. Healy in the House of Commons the other day when he said—

> "Give me the making of the Land Commission, and I don't care who makes the land laws."

[*Laughter.*] He himself could speak dispassionately on the subject, because he had had few cases taken into the Land Courts. He had settled most of his outside. Why had these extraordinary reductions of rent been granted? It might be said that extraordinary reductions had been granted in England by landlords, and that the reductions in Ireland at the hands of the Commissioners were no worse than the reductions that had voluntarily been made in England by English landlords. But the two cases could not be compared. He had been told that the great reductions in England had been given on the large holdings and not on the small holdings, and those well acquainted with Ireland knew that Ireland was more or less one mass of small, and not of large, holdings. Consequently, if what he had been told held good in England, the small holdings had no right to claim the same reductions as large ones. Again he asked, why did the Sub-Commissioners make these vast reductions of rent? He challenged anyone to say that Ireland had suffered from agricultural depression to the same extent that England had. ["Hear, hear!"] With statistics of farm produce, let him compare the year 1881 with 1895. Mr. Gladstone had admitted that agricultural depression was worse in Ireland in 1881 than it had been in recent years. In certain items of farm produce there had been a decrease. Wheat had decreased 3s. 8d. per cwt. But Ireland was not a wheat-growing country. Oats had deteriorated 8¾d. per cwt., barley had decreased 8¾d., but Ireland was not a barley-growing country; hay had decreased 1¾d., potatoes had increased 1d., pork had decreased 13s. 4d. per cwt.; flax, 1s. 1d. per stone. In cattle, one-year-olds had increased 3s. 11d. per head; two-year-olds, £1 2s. 9d.; lambs, 1s. 8d. per head. But see how, since 1881, Ireland had "improved." Take stock. In 1881 there were 574,746 horses and mules; in 1895, 660,152; showing an increase of 85,406. In 1881 there were 137,143 asses; in 1895, 224,446, showing an increase of 87,303. In 1881 there were 3,956,595 head of cattle; in 1895, 4,358,041. Sheep, in 1881, 3,256,185; 1895, 3,914,855, an increase of 658,670. Pigs in 1881 were 1,095,330; in 1895, 1,339,454, an increase of 243,124. Goats in 1881 were 266,073; in 1895, 304,827, an increase of 38,754. Poultry in 1881 were 13,972,426; in 1895, 16,370,496, an increase of 2,398,070. So, although certain products had decreased, it could not be said that Ireland had lost ground in others. Now he turned to the acreage of crops; and he found that in 1873 the cereal crops were 1,930,738 acres, and in 1893, 1,439,373 acres. With regard to the green crop, in 1873 there were 1,372,463 acres, and in 1893 1,153,708 acres—a slight decrease. With regard to meadow and clover, whereas in 1873 there were 1,838,248 acres, there were 2,167,473 in 1893, showing an increase of 300,000. Whereby he maintained that, although certain products had decreased, and the same amount of land was not in cultivation as formerly, there was an enormous increase in the products of Ireland. He turned to what he considered to be the best barometer of Irish prosperity or depression—the Post Office Savings Banks deposits—and he found that whereas in December 1881, the deposits were £3,765,000, they were now nearly doubled, viz., £7,678,000. From these statistics, he ventured to say that agriculture in Ireland was not so depressed as in England at the present time. Then, on what did the Sub-Commissioners base their decisions? The answers of Sub-Commissioners to the questions in the Pink Schedule were not enough. They should state on what part of the landlords' property and what products their reductions were based. Agricultural depression in Ireland was not so keen as in England, for the simple reason that the tenant-right fetched as much as it ever did. The sales of tenant-right from 1882 to 1894 were 3,351; the rents involved were £60,692 17s. 8d., and the total amount realised was £751,011 9s. 4d. Of these, 304 judicial rents were fixed between 1882 and 1886; sales before 1886, with a rental of £5,820 7s. 10d.; purchase money, £53,287 2s. 4d., or 9·1 years' purchase. 1,004 judicial rents were fixed between 1882 and 1886; sales after 1886 at a rent of £17,044 13s. 6d.; purchase money, £225,986 9s. 10d., or 13·2 years' purchase—showing, beyond doubt, that tenant-right had gone up since 1886. Tenant-right had fetched some extraordinary prices. Colonel Waring recently told him of a case in Antrim where the tenant-right of a holding of the rent of £7 5s. 9d. a year fetched £710, or nearly a hundred years' purchase. On his own property there were cases where the tenant-right had fetched 40, 36, 34, and 28 years' purchase. One would have thought that with these high prices for tenant-right there would have been no need of these enormous reductions. But reduction had taken place in Down and Antrim of 45, 40, 37, 35, 32, 31, and 30 per cent. Consequently, he again reiterated that he did think it was advisable that Clause 1 should be so amended as to insist upon the Sub-Commissioners elaborating what was known as the pink schedule. He did not even wish to compare England with Ireland by saying anything to the Irish landlords that might make them think that they were more hardly used than they were, but would the landlords of England or Scotland care to have these compulsory reductions made on their properties when they could prove they were not suffering from this agricultural depression. The rights of landowners in Ireland had always been assailed. Noble Lords who knew Ireland well knew that in many parts tenants built substantial houses, and farmed with advantage land which had been let to them on condition that they paid a certain rent. Were these lettings very different from the manner in which land was let by the ground landlords of London, some of whom were Members of their Lordships' House? Where was the difference? Land Bill after Land Bill had assailed the rights and the freedom of contract of the Irish landlord, but they had never yet touched the rights of the London landlord, although he let his land on precisely the same terms and conditions as the Irish landlords did some years ago.

This he did say with regard to the ground landlords who were Members of their Lordships' House, that if they saw no injustice in the reductions of rent on Irish land, then they could see no hardship in their own ground rents in London being reduced. What was fair for one was fair for the other; consequently, he maintained, that every ground landlord was bound to oppose any invasion of the rights of the Irish landlords unless he was prepared to relinquish his own in London. It was and had been the fashion to abuse Irish landlords, but if they were compared with their English and Scotch brethren history would show they would come well out of the ordeal. Their land had always been fairly let, and their rentals bore very favourable comparison with those of landlords in the sister countries. The Bessborough Commission, described by Mr. Gladstone as "certainly not deficient in its popular sympathies," in their Report issued in 1881, said:—

> "In Ireland it was unusual to exact what in England would have been considered a full and fair commercial rent."

Arthur Young, in his day, considered the rent paid to the owner of land unduly, and often absurdly, low, and, in bringing in the Land Bill of 1870, Mr. Gladstone stated that in the 90 years that had elapsed since Arthur Young wrote, the rents of Ireland had just doubled, and if Ulster were excluded had much less than doubled, while in 98 years the rental of England had trebled, and in 99 years the rental of Scotland had sextupled. In the Debates on the Irish Land Bill of 1870, Mr. Gladstone and Sir Roundell Palmer declared that though it might be within the power of Parliament to take away the rights of Irish landlords still, at the same time, they must pay for taking away that property. He maintained the Irish landlords had a right to know what was to be their fate. Were they to be absolutely ruined? Were the Irish landowners to be left with no margin whatever on which to live in the homes in which they were brought up? Their incomes had been sadly attenuated of late years, their margin was getting smaller and smaller, although charges had to be met all the same, and the final blow, taking away the last remnant of that margin, was to come from a Unionist Government. Did the Government want to expatriate the Irish landlords by the expropriation of their property? If they did, let them say so. They were merely carrying out the wishes and desires of Mr. T. M. Healy, who said—

> "We believe that landlordism is the prop of English rule, and we are working to take that prop away. To drive out British rule from Ireland we must strike at the foundation, and that foundation is landlordism."

Was it to the advantage of Ireland to drive the land-owning classes out of the country? Would it be to the advantage of England and Scotland to drive the land-owning classes out of those countries? He maintained it would be the death knell to Ireland if they were to get rid of the land-owning classes. They knew very well the interest that appertained to a large house in the neighbourhood; they knew the employment that was given by, and the happiness that the land-owning classes were able to confer upon those around them. He did not approach their Lordships on the grounds of feelings of sympathy, but on the ground of justice and of right. He repeated it would be a sad day for Ireland if they were to expatriate the landowners. If they insisted upon expatriating this class they would be endorsing the words of Mr. Healy, who only wished to get rid of them because they stood between him and the Union, and they would shake once for all that confidence in Ireland without which there could never be prosperity in the country. It was a common fashion to believe that property was really only comprised in land, but he maintained that if they once attacked the fundamental rights of property, be it land or be it the coat on their back, they had attacked once and for all the very foundations of property, and once they had done so they would never be able to recede from an attack on any class of property whatever. He would say a few words upon one or two of the clauses. The noble Earl below him did not seem to think, on the question of turbary, that the clause as it now stood could do any harm to any landowner. He seemed to him rather to allude to the turbary question as though the landowners had not been in the habit of giving their tenants free access to their rights of bog. He had no practical experience of that question himself, having no turbary rights, but there were many noble Lords who had, and who intended to discuss this question at considerable length, and they told him that if they did not maintain the rights of turbary, they were really injuring the interest of the tenants. At the present moment great care was taken, by giving bog tickets to the tenants to take what they wanted, by means of maintaining the roads, and by means of taking care of the place generally, that the bogs were not damaged, but if once that care was relaxed and tenants were given a free hand, the bog in a very short space of time would not be found in a suitable condition to supply their wants. But there was one part of this clause which his noble Friend entirely missed. His noble Friends opposed this clause, not only because it attacked their pocket, but because it attacked, to a very great extent, their privileges. This clause gave power to tenants who had received acts of kindness from their landlords to have those acts of kindness made legal and to become their rights. If the clause as it now stood became law, those acts of kindness would become absolute rights, and could not be withdrawn. That was in itself a tremendous infringement, to his mind, of the rights of property. It would not matter to himself. He lived among tenants on the best of terms, and he was glad to think that most of his Friends behind him did too, but it might be that a landlord, living in one of the bad districts in Ireland, might find his life an absolute burden to him by his tenants taking advantage of what were now privileges but which the Bill proposed to convert into rights. He hoped his noble Friend would consider these rights of privileges equally as much, or more than, he did the rights of pocket. Then there was another clause which he was at a loss to understand. This was Clause 11, which was identical with Clause 9 of Mr. Morley's Bill. He was the more surprised at this clause when he read the remarks of the Chief Secretary in which he introduced it. The Chief Secretary said :—

> "Another provision which he regarded as non-contentious in principle, and which is common to both Bills, has for its object the saving of the sub-tenants, when the interest of the middleman is determined by notice to quit or the effluxion of time."

He would remind the Chief Secretary that the words were not "notice to quit," but "ejectment" was the word used in the Bill. This was a complicated Measure, and he did not know that he could describe the difficulties he saw in the Bill better than by quoting the words of his right hon. Friend the Solicitor General for Ireland in the late Unionist Government, Mr. Carson, who on April 2, 1895, was put up by the then Unionist Opposition to denounce this clause. Mr. Carson said :—

> "The right hon. Gentleman (Mr. Morley) also found fault with his statement that this was a revolutionary proposal. He did make that statement and he made it now."

He should like to know why Her Majesty's Government did not consider it a revolutionary proposal now. Mr. Carson went on to say :—

> "It set aside the contracts entered into by the landlord under the Act of 1881; it, in certain cases, abolished the only remedy for rent in Ireland—namely, ejectment for non-payment of rent. The Bill proposed to abolish the right of ejectment for the non-payment of rent as against a middleman. If a middleman had sub-tenants he might bring an action for ejectment for non-payment of rent, and, if he recovered, the land was not to be given up whether the rent was paid or not, and a second action was to be brought by the landowner for the recovery of the land. Was that provision drafted by anybody who knew anything about Ireland? Surely to require a landlord to bring an action against sub-tenants was beyond all fairness and reason in dealing with the rights of landlords."

Surely, if the Plan of Campaign ever again had the misfortune to show its accursed head in the worst parts of Ireland, it would be perfectly possible for the tenants to provide at a moment's notice a certain number of sub-tenants, got from heaven knows where, simply to elude the judgment of the Court. That was a Measure which he trusted his noble Friend would also consider, and, as it was denounced by the Government when in Opposition, he would see his way to alter it in Committee. He had endeavoured to deal with this complicated and detailed question with fairness, and, he hoped, with impartiality. It was a question in which Irish landowners were interested, and on which, if they chose, they would be justified in speaking in terms he might almost say of anger. But he was convinced they would hear no harsh words from any one of the Irish landlords whose property they proposed to reduce. They did not appeal to their Lordships on account of their sympathy with them, but they merely asked them to recognise that they had rights, and that they expected justice to be done to them in the maintenance of those rights. They did not ask the present Government to act partially or even favourably towards them. They did not remind the noble Marquess below him that they had worked heart and soul for the Unionist cause for years past, and that it was due to their energy and their zeal that the noble Marquess won that large number of bye-elections between 1892 and 1895 which shook the late Government to the roots. Nor did they appeal to him because they knew that it was also owing to their energy and zeal, and their devotion to the cause, that he could boast of many of the seats which were now included in his great majority. They simply appealed to their Lordships to deal with them justly and honestly, as they would like to be dealt with honestly and justly themselves. They had before them a Bill which, if altered, could be sent down to the House of Commons a useful Bill. There were portions of it which they approved and heartily endorsed, but there were also portions of it which they considered would act injuriously, not only to themselves but also to all classes in Ireland. They asked their Lordships, therefore, to carefully examine the details of this Bill, and, if they thought their claim a good one, to support the Amendments which they would move in Committee and which they thought were of vital importance. He believed that if their Lordships would devote themselves to this good cause they would be able to send down to the House of Commons a Bill that would give satisfaction to a very large number of people which this Bill did not, a Bill which, he maintained, would satisfy the wants and aspirations of every honest and right-thinking man in Ireland, and they would have been the means of making one great, one giant stride to furthering and, he believed, to solving what had ever been considered the insoluble problem of the Irish question. [*Cheers.*]

*THE EARL OF CREWE said he was anxious not to detain their Lordships at any great length, for more reasons than one. In the first place, owing, to say the least of it, to the expeditious manner in which this Bill was hurried through another place, it had only been within a short time that its details had become known to them, and, unless they had spent days and parts of nights in the Gallery of the House of Commons, it was impossible, owing to the meagre reports given in the newspapers, for them to discover in what shape the Bill was to be introduced into that House. In the next place, the position of noble Lords on the Liberal Benches was a rather singular one. The part noble Lords on that side played on the political stage of their Lordships' House was at all times a limited one—limited by the circumstance of their small numbers, but on this occasion they were not on the stage at all. They were looking on from the body of the theatre—were seated in the stalls, and were watching with some interest the development of the drama—and, having regard to some parts of the speech of the noble Marquess who spoke last, he might almost say the melodrama—which was being played by noble Lords on the other side. [*Laughter.*] The principal interest of this Bill to those on the Liberal side was that to a great extent it vindicated the action of Mr. Morley's Committee, and it also vindicated to a great extent the action of the Government in bringing in a Bill founded mainly on that Report —a Report which Mr. T. W. Russell, now a Member of the Government, said was a moderate and a fair one. The Bill had been received by the landlords of Ireland, as the speech of the noble Marquess had shown, with some resentment and surprise. The resentment was founded on the belief—a belief which he himself shared to a large extent —that had this identical Bill been introduced into their Lordships' House during the existence of the late Government, most of its clauses would have been opposed by noble Lords now sitting on the Government Bench. ["Hear, hear!"] At the same time he did not wish to found too grave an imputation upon that statement, for he recognised that the Members of the Government now felt a responsibility on the matter which they did not feel then, and he had no desire to blame them for acting on that sense of responsibility in introducing this Measure. As to any surprise which the Irish landlords might feel in regard to this Bill, he should have thought that after the introduction of the Bill of 1887 their capacity for surprise in this regard must have been almost exhausted, because, as an interference with the rights of property, the Bill of 1887 was much stronger than the Bill now before the House. Noble Lords opposite, therefore, might think that a Party majority could be too large. A Parliamentary force which enabled the Government to ignore—as the Government were doing on this occasion—the wishes and opinions of a large and influential body of their supporters was, perhaps, not altogether an unmixed blessing. He was glad the noble Marquess, in introducing the Bill, set himself to defend it on its merits, and he was pleased with this because, in watching its progress through the other House, no one could fail to notice that the Chief Secretary and the Attorney General for Ireland conducted it with a conviction of the fairness of its provisions that could not be mistaken. It appeared to him that those who had charge of the Bill in the House of Commons, and also the noble Marquess, had grappled fairly and completely with the exclusions which were dealt with in Clause 4. He was most unwilling to believe that any great number of Irish landlords desired that their tenants—tenants who in the ordinary course would have been able to have a fair rent fixed—should be excluded from the Courts on merely technical grounds. On the contrary, he believed the large number of landlords were perfectly willing that all their tenants should have their rents fixed, and would welcome the abolition of invidious distinctions. He could not believe, for instance, that the great body of Irish landlords would seriously object to the admission of tenants who held under those who were themselves tenants for life, provided that the rights of the remainderman were safeguarded. Nor did he think the Irish landlords would wish to see the tenants who held under the middleman deprived of their rights through the middleman failing to carry out his obligations. There were some matters, to which he and others attached considerable importance, which were not dealt with in the Bill. He was very sorry, for instance, that the difficult and complicated question of town parks had been omitted from the Bill, and that the question was practically left to stand undealt with. He should have thought that the population limit of 2,000, which was originally to be found in the Bill of 1887, might have been profitably inserted in the present Bill, and he was confident that this would have met the wishes of a large number of tenants in the north of Ireland. With regard to Clause 4, he was unwilling to believe that any great number of Irish landlords desired that their tenants should be excluded from the Courts merely on technical grounds. On the contrary, he believed the landlords were perfectly willing that all their tenants should have their rents fixed, and would welcome the abolition of invidious distinctions. He was sorry that the difficult and complicated question of town parks had not been dealt with in this Bill. As to the question of increased letting value, he was inclined to think that the cases in which the increased letting value resulted from a tenant's improvements, over and above a fair percentage on his outlay, were not very numerous. The noble Marquess who introduced the Bill mentioned that no alteration was to be made in the statutory term. That was an omission from the Bill which he regretted, for the present statutory term was either too long or too short. He could understand something being said for a very long statutory term, such as was suggested by the late Mr. Parnell in the earlier stages of the land agitation, because a long term of that kind might be supposed to cover all the ups and downs to which agriculture was subject. On the other hand, if they did not have a very long statutory term, it was advisable to have a short one. He believed that if the noble Marquess had seen his way to a lowering of the statutory term to 10 years something more would have been done than would now be done to contribute to the final settlement of the question, so far as any settlement of it could be supposed to be final. Coming to the question of purchase, he said it was of course a common place of those who spoke on Irish land to speak with approval of the schemes of land purchase, and certainly so far as the Ashbourne Act was concerned there was only one opinion. Those who travelled about Ireland were very often able to distinguish a farm which had been bought under the Ashbourne Act by the excellence of its cultivation, and when the time came, which they all hoped would be an exceedingly remote one, when that learned Lord became a portion of the past, his memory would in the most literal sense be kept green by those spots of improved cultivation which would be connected with his name throughout Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"] But he could not help thinking that the success of that Act might in some cases have given rise to false hopes connected with land purchase. During the three years he was living in Ireland he did not see anything which led him to suppose that landlords as a body were very anxious to sell or that tenants as a body were exceedingly anxious to buy, and it seemed to be a necessary condition of a Bill of this kind that it should be of a purely voluntary nature. There was one point which was not alluded to by either of the noble Marquesses, and that was the small portion of the Bill which professed to deal with the question of evicted tenants. How far any re-enactment of Clause 13 of the Act of 1891 was likely to be successful he had his doubts, and for the reason, that, unless he was mistaken, there had never been anything to prevent any landlord without Section 13 from receiving his tenants back as tenants under the 20th Clause of the Act of 1881 with a view to their becoming purchasers. The noble Lords who had preceded him made a comparison between Irish and English rents. It was, no doubt, very often the case that, statute acre per statute acre, precisely the same land in Ireland paid a somewhat lower rent than it paid in England; but everything he had seen or heard of in Ireland led him to the conviction that if the amount spent on improvements was taken into account the net rent received for land in Ireland was considerably higher than the rent received for land in England. ["No, no!"] The Marquess of Londonderry produced figures in support of his view, and rather gave away his case, because he said that within the last 60 or 70 years English rent had trebled whilst Irish rents had doubled [The MARQUESS of LONDONDERRY: "I quoted Mr. Gladstone."] Precisely, and that led him to suppose the figures were probably correct. [*A laugh.*] He would like to know how large a proportion of that English trebling represented the mere interest upon the landlord's outlay. One word on the question of the attitude of their Lordships' House with regard to questions of this kind. The landlords were very strongly represented in the House, but a difficulty the House might find in approaching the consideration of the subject with perfect fairness was that in the main it was the good landlords of Ireland who were represented there, and it was not for good landlords that all this mass of Irish legislation was intended. In the House the Irish tenants were not represented, though there might be two or three noble Lords sitting on the Opposition Benches whose study of the question led them to see that something was to be said for the tenants. But as a matter of fact, his noble Friends who had filled the same office as he had, were landlords as well, and if they had sympathies or special prejudices, it might be fairly supposed those sympathies or prejudices were on the landlords' side. He, therefore, appealed to their Lordships generally to examine very carefully what the real weight of their Lordships' judgment on this question might be. The noble Lord who spoke last appeared to resent the fact that Irishmen had not been consulted in the preparation of the Bill. To a certain extent, he agreed with the noble Lord. He thought it very desirable that Irishmen of all shades of views should, if possible, be consulted in the preparation of Measures of this kind. When the late Government were drafting their Bill they did their best to obtain the opinion of both sides. The views of the representatives of the Irish tenants were, as far as possible, taken into account. But the Government did not stop there. He considered, without any possible depreciation of the abilities of any noble Lord in the House, that since then the landlord party in the House of Lords had lost their most able defender. ["Hear, hear!"] The late Lord Waterford was a man whose strong common sense and profound knowledge of the subject, and, also, whose fairness in facing the arguments of his opponents, proved much more persuasive than far more elaborate rhetoric would have been, and before drafting their Bill Mr. Morley took occasion to submit his proposals to Lord Waterford, who gave them a close consideration. He had no hesitation in saying that the Government's views upon some of the points which were raised were distinctly modified by what Lord Waterford was able to tell them. When he heard the noble Marquess hint that the landlords were badly treated by the Government on this occasion he could not help sharing the views of Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Balfour that the Bill would not materially injure Irish landlords. How far it would benefit the tenants was another matter. He believed that in some respects it would benefit the tenants without, he hoped, materially injuring the landlords. He trusted, therefore, that the Bill would be allowed to leave the House in something like its present shape. He thought that anything like a prolonged contest on the Bill would have a disastrously unsettling effect on public opinion in Ireland, and he trusted that their Lordships would think once and twice before doing that which would be equally disastrous to all the agricultural classes in Ireland. ["Hear hear!"]

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said he should not discuss whether the Bill ought to be made controversial or not, but that it was beyond all doubt of a controversial character must be admitted. They were now at the end of July, and they were told that Parliament would be prorogued about August 15. They were also told that if they did not accept the Bill it would be wrecked and lost. He thought that was asking that House to legislate under a threat, with a loaded pistol at its head. ["Hear, hear!"] It did not tend to increase the respect with which that House was looked upon by the country; it rather tended to play into the hands of those who would look on that House as a registering machine, and who were constantly informing them that that House only worked in obedience to the mandates of a Tory Government. As to the Bill itself, he could not entirely agree with the general view taken by the noble Marquess; he made a very admirable speech, but it was just a little out of date. If it had been delivered 15 years ago on the Bill of 1881 it would have been most admirable. Personally, he objected most strongly to the whole system of legislation which had been adopted towards Ireland, especially the Act of 1881. When Parliament sent political economy to, he forgot where——

*Earl of Crewe.*

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Saturn.

THE PRIME MINISTER (THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY): No; Jupiter. [*Laughter.*]

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: To Jupiter; it started on a policy which certainly would not be to the general benefit of the whole country in the end. They must, however, deal with things as they were and endeavour to reduce the friction caused by the Act of 1881. This Bill was in many respects admirably adapted for that purpose. As to the purchase part of the Bill, he was not at all competent to go into the question. He did not understand how a man could sell anything and get paid for it unless he could show his title. If they made the purchase clause inoperative they would be placing a damning blot on the Bill. He looked on Clause 30 as the most important part of the Measure. He thought that they all agreed that the dual system, which Parliament in its unwisdom set up, should be done away with. The sooner they got to real ownership the better, and that could only be done through the medium of purchase. He could not see, however, why it should be confined to one party to the transaction or why the favourable terms offered to a tenant to purchase should not be offered to the landlord who was willing to buy out a tenant who desired to sell. He objected to be considered a wild elephant or a wild beast of any kind—[*laughter*]—but he must say that he had obtained from the speech of the noble Marquess a much clearer view of the subject than he had been previously able to acquire. The noble Marquess had glided very lightly over some questions, such as improvements, and he agreed that it was a question not capable of definition in an Act of Parliament. To lay down the proper proportions which should obtain in an Act of Parliament was, he believed, beyond the wit and wisdom of man, and he thought the Government had been wise in leaving the matter to the common sense and rule-of-thumb method adopted in the Courts. The owners of land in Ireland were a class of men who had been grievously maligned, and who had done their duty under most difficult circumstances, and he hoped that all who sympathised with them and all who were interested personally in land in Ireland would look at this Bill from the point of view of how it affected the existing state of things. If they did he thought they would find that the Bill, while benefiting the tenants in many material respects, was not so prejudicial to the interests of the landowners as some seemed to think. ["Hear, hear!"]

*THE EARL OF WINCHILSEA said he had been very much struck by the extraordinary discrepancy which existed between the view of the actual effect which would be produced by the Bill taken by the Government, and the view taken by representative Irish landlords. The Government held that the Bill was necessary to complete prior legislation and enable it to work more smoothly, and that it was, or ought to be, a non-contentious Measure; but there was no mistaking the earnestness of the Irish landlords when they said that if the Bill was carried in its present shape it would complete their ruin by depriving them of the residue of the property that was left to them. That was a very serious issue, and it was their duty to examine this Bill and see which of those views was correct. If the former was correct, the sooner the Bill was passed the better; if the latter, they ought not to part with the Bill without making such substantial alterations in it as would remove the dangers which were feared. The danger of the situation he conceived to be that this Bill did not lay down or fix any principle or guide by which the Commissioners were to arrive at a fair rent. The re-valuations under the second term were being conducted on a principle which Her Majesty's Government were unable to explain the other day in answer to the noble Viscount who raised the question, far less to justify. Further reductions of 30, 40, and 50 per cent. had been made on the re-valuation on the second term, a re-valuation which could not be justified on any known principle. The Irish landowners contended that this Bill should have so dealt with the situation as to have rendered it impossible for the Commissioners to reduce rents entirely at their own sweet will in Ireland. A splendid opportunity was afforded to the present Government, who were able to take up a strong and independent position, of settling this question on a rational and intelligible basis once for all, but if this Bill left the House in its present shape that opportunity would have been lost. If the Bill were amended in the direction he would indicate perhaps something like finality might be arrived at. They had heard a great deal about the purchase clauses of the Bill, and the Government desired to facilitate purchase, but in his opinion the Bill as it stood would simply kill purchase. Who was going to purchase a property the value of which would be reduced to nothing by successive reductions year after year? What was the Court that was making these reductions of rent? The Lord Chancellor the other day said it was impossible for Her Majesty's Government to interfere with judicial proceedings; he appreciated the humour of the noble and learned Lord, but the Irish Land Courts could not be compared with those to which he was accustomed. It was true they had precedents, but they were bad precedents, and the Sub-Commissioners had absolutely no principles whatever to guide them. Sometimes it happened that a person whose interest was directly affected was made both judge and jury. He quite agreed that they must recognise accomplished facts, and they could not go behind the Act of 1881, but they must remember that very exceptional circumstances were created by that Act. In the first place, the landlord was really turned into a rent charger, and they had considerably reduced the amount of the rent he received, and therefore the security they gave him should be as great or greater as that which he had when he was a landlord. Moreover, the tenant had been given the right of selling the right of occupying his holding. In view of these circumstances, it appeared to him to be very hard that they should every 15 years re-open the whole question.

What he ventured to propose to the House as a possible solution of this question was this. He would accept the situation that was created by the legislation of 1881 frankly and loyally, and he would accept the re-valuations of rent made under that agreement. He would further suppose that all the exceptional circumstances referred to in the valuations of 1881 had been taken into account—such as climate, soil, the position of the holdings, and the distance from markets. He would assume that all those circumstances had been dealt with once for all, and that they ought not to be taken into account over and over again in fixing the rent every 15 years. The only fair principle upon which re-valuations of rent should be made was, that only the value of the tenants' improvements not already allowed for, and the loss sustained by a fall in prices, should be taken into account in reducing the rent. If that principle of valuation were not adopted they would be placing the whole property of the landlords at the mercy of irresponsible persons, and there would be no finality short of sweeping away the whole of the landlords' property and establishing the existing tenant in his place. It must be borne in mind that it was only the existing tenant that would be benefited, because every succeeding tenant would have to pay more for his tenant-right, which would be equivalent to an increased rent. If rents were only to be revised in relation to a rise or fall in prices, the bed-rock would have been reached at last, and the landlords would be content. Although they had been deprived of large portions of their property they would know where they were and the principle upon which they were to be treated in the future. If the advantages to the landlords of the adoption of such a principle would be great, they would be equally favourable to the tenants, for under it the landlords would be saved from incessant litigation, would know from year to year exactly what rent they would receive, and while the tenants would be saved from the constantly-increasing incubus of tenant-right. He made these suggestions with great diffidence, being an English landlord, but it appeared to him that it was the duty of English landlords, as well as Irish landlords, to arrive at some solid principle upon which their legislation should be based, knowing as they did that legislation of this kind could not be confined to Ireland, but would be applied to England also, not only as regarded land, but other property as well. He trusted that when the Bill got into Committee—because he believed that there was no desire to divide on the Second Reading of the Bill—the Government would accept the suggestions he had made, and in that case he hoped that a new departure would be made in the land legislation of Ireland of which the Government might have every reason to be proud. ["Hear, hear!"]

LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON said that he was sure that the noble Lord who had just sat down need have offered no apology to the House for having intervened in this Debate, because the tenor of his remarks and the suggestions he had made showed that he had studied, and to a great extent mastered, the difficulties of this subject. ["Hear, hear!"] He was afraid, however, that he had not altogether apprehended the full force of the noble Lord's suggestions; but, as far as he understood them, they appeared to him to be in the right direction, and he hoped that they would be fully considered by Her Majesty's Government. The noble Earl had spoken rather as an opponent of the Bill, but he himself was speaking as a supporter of it, and he might perhaps be allowed to say that it was a very disagreeable thing to find oneself in opposition to and differing from the very large majority of one's friends and colleagues. He was sure, however, that the noble Lords opposite would extend to him the consideration which they always showed to those who endeavoured to speak their honest convictions, and to give him credit for a desire to serve the public interest, and to safeguard the just rights of those to whose class he belonged. He would confine his remarks chiefly to the Tenure Clauses, which formed the most contentious part of the Bill. The Tenure Clauses almost entirely turned upon the principles of the Act of 1881. Under that Act certain clauses were excluded from its operation. But now everything was to be left to the discretion of the Land Commissioners, while the advantages of the Act of 1888 were to be extended from yearly farmers who paid a rent of £50 to those who paid a rent of £100. He confessed that he did not see what could have been done otherwise in 1881, except to have brought in a wholesale Measure for the appropriation of the landlords' property by the State buying them out. The discretion of the Land Commissioners had been a rough-and-ready mode of procedure, and no doubt it had operated harshly both against the owners and the tenants. The worst landlords and the worst tenants had come off the best under it, while the best landlords and the best tenants had come off the worst. No doubt the Act of 1881 offered an inducement to the tenants to allow their land to run out and to deteriorate shortly before the date for the revision of the rents, and in that respect undoubtedly the Act was faulty, but it was the best that could be devised under the circumstances. He thought that the case for the Turbary Clauses of the Bill had not been made out. As regarded turbary, he could not see that any such grievance was made out, and he hoped the Government would not insist on that clause. The core of the whole matter was the question of tenants' improvements. Lord Londonderry admitted that it required to be dealt with. As regarded disputes between landlords and tenants, he could not see how anyone who knew the circumstances of Irish land could think that tenants were adequately protected in their improvements as long as they had a revision of rents or re-valuation hanging over them. If there was a possibility of the tenant being rented on his improvements, it must act as a deterrent to his improvement and impair the security he felt. But what were the main objections to this Bill? Everyone would admit that under a Bill of the kind litigation was unavoidable. When the law was altered people's minds were disturbed under the rulings that had been given, and they needed new decisions under a new Act. He did not think that litigation would be so great as noble Lords opposite seemed to fear, but he was afraid that where it took place it would be long and costly. He believed that the vast majority of tenants would wish to settle with their landlords out of court in larger numbers than in 1881, when great excitement prevailed, and not only excitement but incitement to the tenants were common, and the whole of Irish society was cleft from top to bottom. He thought, therefore, that the dread of increased litigation was somewhat exaggerated. But a more serious objection had been raised—the want of finality in this legislation. He admitted that; and it was in that respect that he was least satisfied with the Bill. But it was in regard to the question of tenants' improvements that the want of finality seemed most serious. On this point he confessed he sympathised with the Government and the Chief Secretary in their efforts (unfortunately fruitless) to bring about an understanding and a compromise between the two contending parties. It appeared to him, however, that, if the parties on both sides could only be got together, some agreement might yet be come to. On the part of the great majority of tenants in Ireland there was a desire for finality in dealing with these questions. No doubt the Turbary Clause would be fully debated in Committee. But there were other contentions which the landlords might fairly expect would not interfere with the rights of the tenant, or disappoint any expectations raised. There was the case where a landlord was in possession of his demesne as tenant. Where the estate was under the Court, and the landlord was in possession as tenant, paying rent to the mortgagees, he was to be entitled to borrow money from the estate to discharge his liabilities in the same way as if he were an ordinary tenant. That contained the germ of what might be a valuable concession to the landlords. If the boon was extended to the man who had been expropriated as a ruined man, why should they stop there? It appeared to him that in many cases where properties were seriously incumbered, but the owner was just able to keep out of Court, a concession of the kind enabling him to borrow money to pay off the charges might just turn the scale and enable him to tide over his difficulties. The noble Marquess opposite fully recognised the difficulty the vendor would be in where proof of title took a considerable time, and he was only receiving $2\frac{1}{2}$ or $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the purchase-money from the time the vesting order places the tenant in possession and the time the purchase-money was distributed among the incumbrancers. At first sight it seemed not an unfair suggestion that the loss between the $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. which the landlord received from the State, and the 4 or 5 per cent. he had hitherto been liable to pay to the incumbrancers, might fall not on the vendors, but on the incumbrancers. But he should himself hesitate very strongly to ask for any such thing. But the difference was a serious matter to the vendors and incumbrancers under the Purchase Clause, so serious in the vast majority of cases that it would stop sales altogether if the Bill remained as it was. If purchase was a matter of such great importance to the State, why should not the State make up this difference, subject to certain safeguards? With certain reservations he was in favour of the Bill, and he believed the fears expressed by noble Lords opposite were, to a large extent, exaggerated.

*LORD CASTLETOWN remarked that the noble Marquess who had moved the Second Reading of this Bill, referring to the slowness of purchase under the Ashbourne Act, said he thought the reason for it was that there was a want of finality. He quite agreed with the noble Marquess; but another and more salient reason was that the Act of 1885 was framed by men who had lived all their lives in Ireland, who knew well how purchase could be carried out on the most advantageous terms to the landlord, the State, and the purchaser, and who framed a Measure that was simple and workable. Unluckily, the Act of 1885 became a dead letter and the Act of 1891 took its place. At the same time, all the Governments that succeeded one another rather helped the idea that there would be no finality as regarded tenure, and the consequence was that the tenant kept from purchase in the hope of being able to buy in the lowest market. The Act of 1891 was difficult and complex, it was full of Treasury difficulties which effectually stopped purchase. He thought the noble Marquess made a mistake as to the 39th Clause in saying that there would be power by that clause given to the Land Judges to deal with a minority in an estate by compulsory sale. The noble Marquess seemed to consider there were some antecedent Acts dealing with the point, but he believed he was right in saying that such was not the case.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I was under the impression that in some of the later Acts there were enactments under which in the case of the sale of an estate *en bloc* to the tenants if the majority of the tenants were in favour of buying, there could be virtually a compulsory sale to the others. I may be wrong.

*LORD CASTLETOWN said there was no actual Act. It was contemplated in the Act of 1891, but it did not come into law. Again, if the noble Marquess would look carefully at the drafting of Clause 32, he would see it did not carry out what he said it did. Turning to the Bill itself he confessed he approached the discussion of this Measure with extreme pity and compassion for those who were its authors, and also for those who were to be experimented upon by the legislative efforts of these gentlemen. If ever a Government had a chance of doing really useful work and of passing a valuable and possibly final Measure it was this Government, but what had they done? After having sat upon Mr. Morley and his Committee practically in a Session now past and figuratively during the first few months of their own term of office, they introduced a Bill which was neither one thing nor the other. At first they were told it was quite a non-contentious Bill. Then they found it was fought over most bitterly by all parties in the other place. Then its author added to the difficulties of its existence by cutting off its arms and legs, excising some of its most vital portions and replacing them in a mutilated form at all sorts of odd angles. No Bill, he ventured to think, had ever had such a bad time of it. Those who took an interest in it had appealed one day to Philip drunk and another day to Philip sober, and Philip himself had been heard to say (he supposed in his sober moments) "Please do not ask me to explain things which I do not understand." And this was the outcome of the great Unionist majority which was to settle the Irish problem, and enable the Irish Land Question to be brought within measurable distance of finality. The exact opposite of this would be the issue of this Measure unless largely and vigorously amended. It was full of mischievous germs; it was a mass of want of knowledge of what was required in land purchase, and it was replete with legal pitfalls. What was the continuous statement made on all Unionist platforms? That it was by perfected system of land purchase that the Irish Question could be solved. What was certain to be the outcome of this Bill if unamended? The tenure clauses were so many incitements to the tenants not to purchase, but to take their chance of getting a reduction of rent. They were also so many inducements to the village attorney to prevent his client the tenant agreeing to any offer of purchase from his landlord. Let him quote what was said in another place by Mr. Chamberlain when dealing with Mr. Morley's Land Bill. Mr. Chamberlain said:—

> "By this Bill you are increasing the uncertainty of everything that concerns Land Purchase in Ireland. The tenant is a shrewd person, and he will not go into Courts to buy so long as he believes there is an element of uncertainty as to what his ultimate rent is to be. He is not such a fool as to buy in a falling market, and unless therefore you introduce some kind of finality you will never carry out this great operation of transfer."

Mr. A. J. Balfour said:—

> "Mr. Sexton had advised the tenants not to purchase their holdings until the utmost had been squeezed out of the landlords by legislation. Not to buy as long as the Irish Members 'might squeeze out of some soft-hearted Government, some Government sensitive to vote a little more favourable machinery for adjusting that fair rent on which after all the amount of purchase money depended.'"

This policy, he said, was "deplorable." What did the right hon. Gentleman say now, for this policy was just the same? Both these Ministers saw this Bill, and yet they perpetuated the same blunder as that made by Mr. Morley, and with no excuse for it. They had had time to get information. They proved they had the knowledge, and yet they fell into exactly the same pitfall, and they made matters worse, for the Leader of the House, he believed, admitted that some Measure must be passed to make up for the loss of the Education Bill, which was sacrificed simply by want of steering power in the other place. It seemed to him (and he regretted to have to say it) that when either side were in a difficulty the only way out was to rob an Irish landowner. In this case a Conservative Government were going further. They were starting the germs of a disease which must spread first of all to Wales and then to England and Scotland. They were not dealing only in this Bill with Irish property and amenities, but they were going at the very root of property. If a man had allowed his neighbour any amenity in the shape of power to go up his avenue to draw water from a particular well, to cut rushes for thatch, etc., every one of those privileges were to be made rights by Clause 8. Did they suppose this doctrine would only hold good for Ireland. Every man in Great Britain who had any spirit of discontent in him would demand that he also should have as a right what was now given him out of kindness. But this Bill went even further than that. He remembered well the passage of the Bill of 1881 through the Commons as he then had the honour of a seat in that assembly. Every speech made on the subject by the Government of the day reiterated the fact that the Bill was intended to protect only those who were unable to protect themselves; the needy and ignorant tenant farmer, and the limit of £50 rateable value was the defined limit, and a very generous one it was. A Conservative Government admitted all leaseholders to the operations of the Land Act, and a new Conservative Chief Secretary now raised the limit from £50 to £100, and he supposed inferred that the farmer who paid, say £120 a year, was quite incapable of making a bargain. What had happened to Mr. Chamberlain's tenant, "the shrewd person who will not buy in a falling market." He was not such a fool as to do that, and yet he was to be protected by all the intricacies of the law, and he was to be urged to go to law with his landlord. He wanted as much as any Irishman to see absolute justice done to the tenant farmer, but he did not want to see him turned by legislation into a designing rogue. Every chance that legislation could give him had been handed to him. His rent was fixed by law, his improvements were safeguarded by law. He was entitled to sell another man's property, and he was a permanent owner of his farm as long as he paid the legal rent, and he was assisted by the State to purchase his holding. Yet now new concessions were to be made to him, not so much with a view of benefiting him as with the intention of filling the pockets of the local attornies. Who were the men who drafted this Bill? Were they men who lived in Ireland and had made Land Purchase and the Land Question a life-long study? Not a bit of it. Which of the officials who knew about land legislation had been consulted? Not one of them. Those who drafted this Bill were lawyers with seats to lose, and platform lecturers with rash promises to redeem. The Bill was not a useful Bill, was not a wise Bill, and in many of its provisions absolutely mischievous. With regard to Clause 1, he wished particularly to call attention to the insufficiency of evidence furnished by the Sub-Commissioners as to how and why they lowered rents, having regard to the prices of the day and those obtaining in 1881. In his opinion, all the reasons possible should be given by the Sub-Commissioners as to the nature of the holding, the state of the holding, and the grounds upon which they fix their fair rent. If a great industry, such as the Lancashire or Welsh coal and iron industries were being dealt with, the ablest and best men would be employed for that object. Land was the great industry in Ireland, and yet they pitchforked into Sub-Commissioners men of all types, and generally with marked political proclivities. What we wanted to know was, what the value of the land they were appointed to judge really was. No expense should be spared, no labour avoided to arrive at this solution. Wasn't it time they should make clear what the commodity was, what the items in that commodity were, what were the classes of soil they had to value, and the improvements of the landlord and the improvements of the tenant. He only asked for a clear and definite valuation, and for honest men to make that valuation. He now came to the purchase clauses, which he looked upon as being perhaps the most vital, and, in the present Bill, the most unserviceable. To his mind, and he had had a long apprenticeship in purchase, there was only one good clause. That clause, 35, dealing with the purchase of land and rent charges, was framed by Irishmen, drafted by Irishmen, who knew Irish land and who knew what was wanted. There were some other good clauses, and they were good for the simple reason that they knocked out some very bad clauses in the Act of 1891. That Act was framed, he believed, a good deal on the advice of the brother of the present Chief Secretary. He was warned against many of those clauses, but, apparently with that *insouciance* and that idea that Englishmen must always know better than Irishmen, he passed by those warnings and introduced these clauses. The Act of 1891 had not been a workable Act, and now those clauses were struck out, and he was glad they were, by the brother of the late Chief Secretary. Clause 30 had a most extraordinary and interesting name. It was called a clause for "expediting proceedings." As far as he could read the clause, it did exactly the opposite. It might, and even that he doubted, hasten the conversion of the tenant into a purchaser, but it would effectually tie up the purchase money for an indefinite period, and it would necessitate two investigations, one by the Land Commission to ascertain if the vendor had a *primâ facie* title, the other by the Land Judge to make title to the fund. But under this clause, a middleman holding under a lease with little or no interest might sell the fee simple, and the Land Commission, in such case, need not even inquire into the adequacy of the price if the vendor had a *primâ facie* title to sell. Then again, a mortgagee with a power of sale in his mortgage, might sell the fee simple. Mortgages usually contained a power of sale, so that all mortgagees might sell under this clause, and sell the fee simple though their charge was only on a term of years. The noble Marquess, in introducing the Bill said there was undoubtedly a difference between the times of sale, and that he would be glad to meet that point if it was brought up in Committee. He ventured to think he had some arrangement which, if the Government would accept it, would enable the State to bridge over that time without loss either to the incumbrancer or to the selling landlord. The tenant did not come into the question. The next salient clause was Clause 39—Landed Estates

Court Sales. Under that clause, estates now in the hands of receivers were to be sacrificed and sold at any price obtainable, and the gentleman who was to do this was the Judge who applied for the money to that soft-hearted and considerate body the Treasury. He wondered what would be said of a farmer who asked the butcher to fix the price of his fat beast and agreed to take that price. Yet that was what the Government of this country asked rational beings to agree to. They had heard a great deal of the stupidity of the Irish landowner and he had even heard people say that English landowners were very obtuse. He confessed that if they agreed to this charming germ of confiscation, and if they found the disease eventually sweeping them from their homes in Great Britain also, they would have no one to blame but themselves. The clause was absolutely unnecessary. The work of this court, or the sale of these properties, could be carried on under another system without hurting the tenant or the State. Continental countries had carried this through without the slightest difficulty. It had been done in Germany, in Switzerland, in France and in Austria, and if their legal advisers would only take example or a little wisdom from these people they would learn how this business could be carried out without hurting a single person connected with it. What did the Government want? Was this Bill pushed through in order that they might say they had passed a Bill? He thought that was the case. [*Cheers.*] Or did they want simply land purchase on fair terms between man and man, which was the platform cry? The Bill did exactly the opposite. It absolutely stifled purchase. [*Cheers.*] What the Irish farmers and the Irish landlords wanted was some finality. [*Cheers.*] Let them know that there was to be an end to persistent litigation. This Bill produced nothing else but litigation. Mr. Morley said the other day what was absolutely true when he declared that they would have to produce another Bill to amend and explain the present Bill. He appealed to those in charge of the Bill to help them to make this a workable and a useful Bill. They wanted to do their duty between the two classes in Ireland. They wanted to make land purchase useful and serviceable, not complex and useless. He appealed to the Government to help them to do that. He would like to see this Bill pass as a workable Measure, and he would ask, therefore, and implore his noble Friend, who was in charge of the Bill to aid them in this endeavour. If he cared for Ireland, as he believed he did, let him try to offer her finality as near as might be in land legislation; if he cared for his own high reputation, which he was sure he did, let him not have his name associated with a badly-drafted, badly-conceived Bill, and, if he believed in the honesty of his Irish Friends and their love for their country, which he ought to do, let him show this by helping them to turn the Proteus of the House of Commons into a solid working Measure of the Lords.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said the noble Lord who introduced this Bill stated that its main object was to clear up the law. If that was the case he ventured to suggest that, if the noble Lord would accept most of the Amendments which would be proposed by the landlord party next week, he would help very much to clear up this Bill. One of the great faults of this Bill was that it was brought in to please all sides. It had pleased nobody. It had given great dissatisfaction to one section of the community. It might possibly whet the appetites of another section for something more. The curious part of it was that though Mr. Balfour stated in the other House that the Bill virtually left that House as it came in, yet they found that instead of 44, the original number, it contained 51 clauses. These clauses must mostly have been inserted during the small hours of Wednesday morning, and naturally had materially altered the character of the Bill as it came before their Lordships' House. In justice to the Bill, he must say there were several clauses in it which they considered to be good ones, and to which they gave their hearty and cordial assent. He, in common with other noble Lords, had the utmost reluctance in raising objections against the Bill, but they had their duty to perform. As chairman of the Landowners' Convention, he and other Lords in that House represented from 13,000 to 14,000 landowners, and they were bound to protect their interests as far as lay in their power.

If it was granted, though some of them doubted the fact, that an Irish Bill of some kind was necessary, surely a short one, clearly defining the position of the judicial tenants, improving and cheapening the procedure, and giving facilities for the purchase of their holdings by the tenants, would have been sufficient. Instead of that the Government had introduced a Bill full of snares and pitfalls. He thought the proper name of this Bill should be "Save us from our Friends' Bill." [*Laughter and cheers.*] For in every corner and at every point they saw the finger and designs of their friends—their candid friends—who were seeking to deprive the Irish landlord of the small remnant of his property which he now held—those friends who smiled upon them when occasion or necessity required it, but who stabbed them in the back when the occasion or necessity had passed. There were many people who had helped to fight hard battles for their Party, and who joined them in supporting the general policy of their Party, and too late they had learned how ready their leaders were to cast aside their general policy for purposes of temporary expediency; and when they had found Measures proposed which were not in accordance with what were understood to be the main principles of that Party, then, he contended, no objection should be raised if criticisms were freely passed upon that Party. The present Government was mainly brought into power for the protection of the rights of property. This Bill which it hoped to pass involved serious encroachments upon the rights of property; therefore he begged to express a hope that when an individual took up those criticisms it would not be thought that he was hostile to his party, but only to those Measures which he considered inimical to the fundamental rules which had hitherto guided that party. The fact was that, whenever a difficulty arose in Ireland and the Government—whatever side it might be—wished to gain credit for removing it, it was found most convenient to do so at the expense of the unfortunate landlords. The result was that the landlords only suffered and were made the shuttlecock of party warfare. It was only the other day, after a lively Debate in the other House, that he found the following statement in a daily paper. After going into details as to the action of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Carson the paragraph ended:—

> "Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour have shown before, as they are showing now, that when the interests of the 'Party' require the sacrifice, the Irish landlords must go to the wall."

This was the feeling and the expression of one of the chief leading daily papers in the country. It was not a Conservative or a Unionist paper—it was a Liberal paper, the *Daily News*—and he regretted to say that it appeared to him that the sentiments expressed in that paper were echoed very generally throughout this country. They had heard much of the "inherent capacity of the soil" in this Bill. He would like to know what were the inherent capacities of the Castle officials who had helped to draft this Bill. It appeared to him that if the clauses of the Bill were applied to that capacity it would be soon reduced to prairie value. They had long and complicated clauses drawn, which had to be completely remodelled on the eve of the Committee stage in another place, and which were no sooner remodelled than important parts of the remodelling were remodelled over again in the face of some new breeze that began to blow from some quarter, where it would be most convenient to some Members of the Government that there should be a calm. The Government seemed to have been guided in this matter by advisers whose whole idea of high policy was comprised in the prayer, "Give peace in our time, O Lord." The 31st Clause sought by a side wind to bring about that obliteration of the sound distinction between the mode of succession to real and personal estate which their Lordships determined last Session by a large majority to maintain. It sought to obliterate it in the case of the landed property of small occupying owners, apparently in total ignorance of the drift of enlightened opinion in the chief countries of the Continent, among those interested in the welfare of the peasant proprietors who were established there. They had a clause—Clause 30—which was described in the contents "as expediting proceedings in sales," which, in the opinion of the whole body of possible vendors, without whose co-operation no sales could take place, was calculated to put a stop entirely to negotiations for sales. There was another clause—Clause 39—which was understood to have been inserted with the intention of hastening the process of creating small proprietors, the first effect of which had been to inflict a blow upon the credit of landowners in Ireland, that had latterly shown remarkable signs of recovery, which interfered with the discretion of the land judges, with the rights of mortgagees, including many English and Scotch insurance companies, representing the interests of thousands of thrifty English and Scotch artisans and tradesmen. The actual effect of this in the long run would be to retard the operation of the Land Purchase Acts, by establishing a price lower than that at which landlords could afford to sell. No Englishman, however able he might be, understood the ways, manners, customs, and whims of Irishmen. In his opinion it took an Englishman at least five years to become even superficially acquainted with Ireland in all its complex nature, and even then he knew but little. The authors of this Bill had taken upon themselves the responsibility of drafting it, presumably with the help of some Irish advisers. If they had only consulted some of the leading men connected with, and having experience of, the land question in Ireland, they probably would have saved a great deal of the present difficulty and trouble. The drafting of a Land Bill might be easy, or it might not be an easy matter, but the compilation of a Bill that would confer practical benefits on anyone but lawyers was one of the most difficult and complicated matters connected with the administration of Irish affairs. The object of Mr. Gladstone's Land Act, as explained by him, was to give the Irish tenants the protection against possible injustice and the encouragement to improve their land, which it was alleged that the English law of landlord and tenant failed to give owing to the peculiar circumstances of this country. But Mr. Gladstone clearly expressed his desire to do this with the smallest possible amount of interference with the rights of property and with freedom of contract. This limitation was thrown to the winds in this Bill. While very few of them could approve of the particular provisions by which Mr. Gladstone sought to gain his object, most of them accepted his Measures, after they had passed their Lordships' House. with a disposition to make the best of them, understanding that they were, roughly speaking, only intended to give to the tenants of all Irish landlords the security and other privileges enjoyed by the tenants of the best landlords. In practice, all expectations of this sort had been disappointed—generous and improving landlords had been, generally speaking, much more injured than grasping and improving landlords. He thought they might admit that this was contrary to the intention of the authors of the Act of 1881, but the same cannot be said of the authors of some of the clauses in the Bill now before them. The eighth clause appears to provide deliberately for the punishment of every landlord who had been liberal to his tenants in the matter of turbary and other privileges, while it left unscathed any landlord who might have been in the habit of letting his tenants get nothing that they did not pay him the full value for. ["Hear, hear!"] In the same way the clause regarding the recovery of arrears—Clause 12—by process of ejectment threatened to mulct the landlord who had been kind to a widow or an old tenant in embarrassed circumstances, while it left unaffected the landlord who had always insisted on having his money or his land. These clauses were borrowed from the Measure brought in by the late Government, more or less at the dictation of some who were once leaders of the Land League. The landlords understood their presence in that Measure, considering its reputed parentage. Landlords and tenants in Ireland were still in many cases far too good friends to suit the purposes of some politicians, and they could understand their liking for clauses whose effect must be to drive the landlords hitherto disposed to be liberal, but whose circumstances forbade them to allow their property to slip from them by default, to be more chary in allowing privileges to their tenants, and more severe in their insistance on the payment of rent when due. What the object of those responsible for the present Bill was in allowing these clauses to be inserted in it, he was unable to conjecture. These were far from being the only objectionable features of the Bill, but they were good examples of the spirit in which it had been drawn, against which many noble Lords felt called upon to protest. He was not disposed to deny that the Land Acts of 1870 and 1881, and even the Act of 1887, were to some extent framed and passed in response to something like a genuine demand on the part of the Irish tenants for protection to their improvements and for the security of tenure at reasonable rents. But for those present encroachments on the landlords' rights of property there was no spontaneous demand on the part of the tenants in Ireland. According to his experience, Irish tenant-farmers, if let alone, were a most reasonable and honest body of men, who desired to live and to let live, and had no wish to deprive their landlords of any of their just rights in any of the modes embodied in the objectionable clauses of this Bill. The superfluous demands in answer to which these clauses had been drafted were the invention of agitators, and clever attorneys in search of practice, and they had gained such force and popular support as they possessed chiefly by the desire of a certain class of parliamentary candidates to outbid each other in promising favours to tenant-farmer voters, at the expense of those whose voting power they thought could be neglected. It was greatly to the credit of the honesty and good sense of the tenants that, in spite of the repeated eloquent assurances that they heard from men speaking with the authority of Members of Parliament, and read in the newspapers as to their absolute right to further slices of their landlords' property, and there was so little genuine demand for predatory legislation, as there really was among the general body of honest and industrious Irish tenantry. Ministers responsible for Irish affairs were constantly proclaiming that their only real hope of peace in Irish agrarian matters rested on the operation of the provisions in this and other Measures for facilitating the transfer of the ownership of the land from the landlord to the tenant. He was at a loss to conceive how Her Majesty's Government expected these Measures to operate in the only way in which they could operate, by the agreement of the tenant to purchase at a price at which the landlord could afford to sell, if every few years the tenant was given a further slice of the landlord's property without any payment at all immediate or deferred. Now the danger which noble Lords had to face was that the terms contained in this Bill, unless they were altered, must eventually be applied to this country. He knew for a fact that the Radicals were only waiting to see the same principles applied to land here, and he appealed to the noble Lords sitting on the front Bench, and who were the possessors of broad acres in England and in Scotland, and to those noble Lords who owned large house property in this country, to take into consideration the position of those landowners in Ireland whom by this Bill they intended, he granted, perhaps unwillingly, to rob of the small remains of their property. Men who have always, as a body, acted nobly and loyally to this Party, men who, moreover, have been the means, to a very large extent, of placing the Government in the position which they now held. Think of the misery that this Bill might hereafter cause to this class of Her Majesty's subjects. Think of the risks which by passing this Bill they would bring upon the landowners of England and Scotland. They might think it was a small matter to cause injustice to the landowners of Ireland, but it would be perhaps in their eyes a far more serious concern when, by their action towards Ireland, they found that poverty and ruin had also been brought upon the owners of property in England and Scotland. By ruin he meant the destruction of large estates, involving the shutting up of country houses on those estates, and the consequent misery brought upon all classes of labourers and dependents, small shopkeepers and others, whose existence, to a very large extent depended upon the resident landowners in this country. If they applied the measures of this nature contained in this Bill to one class or one part of the United Kingdom, how could they prevent it extending to others? And, therefore, he ventured to warn noble Lords from England and Scotland in this House to look to their own interests. He appealed to the bearers of those great family names which for many generations had been recognised as the upholders of the rights of property and justice in this country. Were the present bearers of those names to be distinguished from their forefathers by their indifference to the rights of those whose interests were, in a measure, bound up with their own? Were they to be untrue to the trust which in years gone by raised them to the rank, the respect, and confidence which they now enjoyed in public esteem?

*VISCOUNT MIDLETON said he would confine his remarks entirely to the southern portion of Ireland, in which his lot had been cast, and with which he was best acquainted. He was struck with the fairness of mind and candour which distinguished the speech of Lord Lansdowne, but he was sorry to say he found himself unable to arrive at the conclusion at which his noble Friend seemed to have arrived. It appeared to him that two courses were open to the Government. They might have introduced a short Bill, merely mending some of the holes in the Act of 1881, defining what was the legal status of a judicial tenant at the expiration of his term and bringing within the scope of the Act of 1891 some of those who were included in the Act of 1881, but who were left out of the later enactment. Or it was open to them to have introduced a comprehensive Measure dealing with five different points. It should have defined what, from a Parliamentary point of view, was the property that remained to the landlord in the soil, and it should have given to the landlord *totium verbis* the inherent capacity of the soil as part of his property. So far as the tenant was concerned, it might have called upon the Commission to fix, as they were now empowered, but not enjoined to do, the specified value of the tenant-right at the time when the holding was valued, giving, of course, to the tenant any addition in improvements which he might subsequently make. If that had been done half the business of the village usurer or gombeen man, who was the curse of Ireland, would have been taken away. Thirdly, it might have contained the clause which Mr. Morrison proposed in the House of Commons, but which was not accepted by the Government, refusing to admit to an application for a judicial rent any tenant who had wilfully or by neglect deteriorated his holding, and in that way it should have acted as a discouragement to those dishonest tenants—he hoped the minority—who were accustomed towards the end of the judicial term to let the land run down. Fourthly: without any disadvantage to the tenant, they might have cured the monstrous injustice which had been done to the landlord by the exaction of 22½ years' purchase for tithe rent charge. Lastly: the Bill might have simplified and facilitated in every way the conditions of purchase upon which almost everybody was agreed the future hope of Ireland depended. He was not in favour of a sudden or a general purchase taking place all over Ireland at once. He agreed with Mr. Bagwell that, desirable as purchase was, the process of purchase ought to be uniform and steady; that it was very much to be deprecated that any very considerable amount should take place in any one particular year. The Bill which was introduced by Lord Ashbourne was a thorough and workable Bill. The Bill of 1891 was, however, a Measure which was paved with good intentions, but under which only a little more than one-thirtieth of the large sum which the Legislature proposed to grant in five years had been taken up. He could quite understand it. A case came under his notice where a landlord and tenant contracted to sell and buy a farm. The rental was between £60 and £65, and the price to be paid was between £1,200 and £1,300. That sale took between two and three years to carry through, during which time the costs were run up enormously, and the inconvenience occasioned to the parties extremely great, owing to the red tapeism by which the administration of the Act was beset. The Act stunk in the nostrils of every landlord and of almost every tenant in Ireland. Something ought to be done to cure the monstrous delay, expense, and other inconvenience attending the working of the Act. Everybody was now in favour of a purchase system, but that system could not be carried out successfully unless the Shylocks of the Treasury released their grasp upon landlord and tenant alike. The Bill which he held in his hand had not softened any of the difficulties. It seemed to have unsettled everything, and settled nothing in spite of what had been said by the noble Marquess below. He detected the cloven foot of Mr.

Morley's Bill clearly through this Bill, a Bill which was founded on the unfairness of the majority, who, after hearing the evidence of the tenants, refused to allow the landlords' case to be put in evidence. There were several clauses with which he should not deal. There was the Turbary Clause, on which he should not dwell except to say this, that, on this side of the water at all events, they were not accustomed to see privileges converted into a right by Act of Parliament. As to improvements, they were taken back to 1850, which was the first occasion on which the presumption as to improvements being in favour of the tenant was made; but in 1850 no one ever dreamt of the sweeping legislation which had since been applied to the land. What took place between 1850 and 1870 is grounded upon very imperfect records; but what had taken place, even with the existing records as to existing improvements, was probably worth nothing at all. This was just a point which would be raised by a clever attorney frequently in the absence of evidence. Then, there was the question with regard to tithe rent-charge, that was really not dealt with at all in the Bill. Then there was the provision which might have been inserted with great advantage, and which now formed Rule 74 of the Land Court, dealing with the case where the landlord and tenant agreed. He might say generally, that the provisions of the Bill were in favour of the tenant and not in favour of the owner of the soil. He would not give the tenant 6d. less than he was entitled to; but, on the other hand, he would not give him 6d. more, and for the reason that to give it to him they would have to take it from the landlord. He thought that Parliament should act equitably and fairly to all classes, but it should not transfer the property of one class to another class. It reminded him of the man who was so affected by a charity sermon that he plunged his hand into his neighbour's pocket and put the money on the plate. [*Laughter.*] That was how the Irish landowner had been dealt with by the English Parliament. Since he had the honour of a seat in that House, 25 years, no less than 25 Bills had been introduced, with more or less success, into one or other House, and he would only ask any of his English brother landowners whether they would find it possible to manage their properties with any degree of success if they were interfered with by legislation on an average once a year. It made it impossible for anyone to know what the law was, to say nothing of what it would be next year. The only justification that could be alleged for such a method of dealing with property would be the fact that the landowners had seriously failed in their duties. They had been twice before Parliament, and as a class they had been honourably acquitted on both occasions. Probably the power of the landowner was never greater than it was after the famine between 1850 and 1870. In 1850 the total amount of deposits in the banks was 7 millions; in 1864 it was 15 millions; in 1875 it was 30 millions, and now it was 36 millions. [*Cheers.*] This was irrespective of Post Office Savings Banks. Then, the shares which formerly were held in England of joint stock banks, railways, breweries and in newspapers, were now nearly all in Irish hands on Irish soil. He did not know of a similar instance where a population had decreased from economic causes, and where the wealth had steadily increased and quadrupled. As to the conduct of the Bill, the advocates of the tenants had abstained from the language which they previously used and which he had had to condemn. He preferred their outspoken utterances to the casuistry of Mr. Morley or the brutal indifference of Sir W. Harcourt. The object of the representatives of the Irish tenants was clear—they wished to drive rents down to zero, or, at all events, to what was called prairie value, and then, when the swing of the pendulum had placed the Party opposite in power, they hoped to get a compulsory purchase Bill on the lines of prairie value out of the English Parliament. What they asked for was simple justice, and he earnestly trusted they would not appeal to their Lordships in vain. When they protested against this, the noble Lord talked about melodramatic proceedings. What did he know of the land question, and how far did he endeavour to master the question when he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland? For many of them it was not a melodrama, but a tragedy. Upon many estates the margin was very small, and incumbrances were created at a time when no such legislation as this was dreamt of. They had endeavoured to improve the prospect in the past, they could hardly be expected to continue to do so. This was not a case for sympathy or sentimentality, but for simple justice. Now that the interest on money was so low, and the Treasury could borrow on such exceptional terms, surely they ought to receive some consideration and compensation. Many of them had devoted their whole lives to improving the property and condition of those who were upon their property, which they now saw gradually taken from them little by little until nothing would remain. He hoped the Goverment would not be too severe in rejecting Amendments, and he earnestly trusted that they should not appeal to their Lordships in vain.

*EARL SPENCER said it always needed some courage for a Member of the Bench from which he rose to address their Lordships, and struck him when he looked at the condition of the Benches behind him—[*laughter*]—that this was probably as discouraging an occasion as any on which he had had to speak; but he felt it his duty to do so, as representing the late Government, who endeavoured to deal with this subject. He had listened with great interest to what he might call, perhaps, a lovers' quarrel, and had watched the attitude taken up on this question by those who generally so warmly supported Her Majesty's Government. He ventured to think that the Irish landlords had two reasons for complaining somewhat seriously of Her Majesty's Government—first, because after the Government introduced this Measure, when the Irish landlords had put forward their views, the Government appeared to accept them, and put down Amendments to carry out those views in the House of Commons. ["Hear, hear!"] Then, apparently with little reason, the Government saw fit to withdraw those Amendments, and the Irish landlords felt that they had been thrown over, either on account of their opponents or for some reason which they did not know. The Government appeared to blow hot and cold in regard to this matter. ["Hear hear!"] He was not saying that they were wrong in their final decision, he should think they were probably quite right, but he thought they were treating with scant courtesy those who usually supported them in introducing those Amendments and then suddenly withdrawing them. There was another reason why the Irish landlords and others, both in that House and in the House of Commons, who took a deep interest in this question, had some reason for complaint. The late Government were very much attacked for carrying a great Irish Measure in another place by means of closure by compartments; in his opinion closure by compartments was very objectionable, and could only be defended when the Government were in the greatest possible straits, and when it was absolutely necessary to carry a Measure. That procedure was one of the reasons why their Lordships were urged to throw out the Measure to which he had referred. Her Majesty's Government had not adopted closure by compartments, but they had done what he conceived to be almost equivalent to that, they had continued the discussions through all-night sittings, and in that way, by reducing the strength of the Members, they certainly curtailed the legitimate discussion of this question. [*Cheers.*] How was it possible for any Members, whatever their physique might be, to discuss, with intelligence, judgment and earnestness, a complicated question of this sort at three, four, or five o'clock in the morning? [*Cheers.*] Both Her Majesty's Government and the late Government agreed as to the necessity for dealing with this question, and, he thought, for the same reasons. There was nothing so essential as that the relations between landlord and tenant in Ireland should be conducted on amicable terms, and that the working of the land laws should proceed smoothly. The foundation of all society and good government in Ireland depended on that, for if these relations were disturbed there were sure to be grave disturbances which sometimes culminated in agrarian crime. They believed that it was necessary to amend the Act of 1881 in order to clear up grave doubts as to the position in which the tenants would be at the conclusion of their first judicial term. Then there was friction with regard to the Improvement Clause which it was desirable to remove. That was one of the most difficult questions that could be brought before Parliament. They had all tried their hands at endeavouring to get a clear definition of the meaning of a tenant's improvement, and he was sorry to say that they had all failed in their attempts to do so. But at the same time it might be that every new definition was likely to increase the danger arising from conflicting decisions in the courts of law. Perhaps one advantage of the first clause of the Bill was that it left the law where it stood. Perhaps the Land Commissioners might arrive at some satisfactory definition, and might make the law upon the subject clearer than it was at the present moment. The Government also proposed to open the door to those who wished for revision of judicial rents. That appeared to him to be a useful provision, and he certainly could not see the great danger to the landlords' interests entailed by it to which reference had been made. The Government, moreover, had enlarged very considerably the class of tenants who might apply to have judicial rents fixed. The result was that a most useful and important class of men—he meant the pasture farmers whose rent was under £100 a year—would now be able to have their rents judicially fixed. The Bill further dealt with the subject of town parks, but not in a manner such as was necessary to satisfy justice in Ireland. There were cases where a few houses were collected together at cross-roads in Ireland. These were called town parks, and all the lands around them within a certain zone were excluded from the operation of the Bill. He wished very much that the Government had seen their way to have dealt with these town parks, so as to have enabled the tenants living in them to have had judicial rents fixed. He believed that Lord Cowper's Commission had recommended a population limit of 5,000 as the test of a town park, and in the Bill of last year the limit was put at 2,000. He regretted that Her Majesty's Government had not seen their way to deal more thoroughly with the subject. He was glad to see that the Bill dealt with the subject of evicted tenants, and tried to bring about some means of conciliation between them and their former landlords. It was unfortunate, however, that the provisions of the Bill were not compulsory, because without compulsion some of the worst cases might remain undealt with, and therefore a complete solution of the problem would not be arrived at. Experience showed that where a large number of evicted tenants lived near their old holdings they constituted a continual cancer and sore, which, in the interests of peace in Ireland, should be removed and healed up. ["Hear, hear!"] Turning to the question of purchase, he might say that, although no reference was made to it in the Bill of last year, he had always been in sympathy with those who desired to promote it, because he believed that an extended system of purchase would largely tend to bring about a solution of the Irish Land Question. When they considered how general purchase was to be brought about, grave difficulties existed. In his opinion compulsory purchase was perfectly impossible. If they did not have this they must have the most easy terms of purchase, and there was great practical difficulty in carrying that out, not only in justice to the Imperial Treasury, but for other reasons. In order to bring about a satisfactory state of things in Ireland and establish quietude among the tenants, they must not only encourage purchase where it could be carried out, but also give security of tenure. It would be impossible in some cases for purchase to be introduced. It was a Voluntary Act. There was such a little margin between what many landlords in Ireland, and he was afraid in England also, had to pay on mortgages and what they received in rent, that if they accepted terms of purchase offered under the different Acts they would have practically nothing left. They were, therefore, unable to come forward and offer to sell their lands. That made the Tenure Clauses so important. He was, therefore, one of those who thought both systems must be in vogue in Ireland for some time to come, and whether they would be changed hereafter he could not say. He rejoiced that the Government proposed to alter some of the terms enacted in recent Acts with regard to purchase. It was evident that recent Acts of purchase had not been successful. The complications introduced into the Purchase Acts of 1891 were such that it was almost impossible for the tenants to come forward freely and purchase their tenancies. He was glad to hear that the tenants' insurance fund would be discontinued and that the landlords' guarantee deposit was to be materially modified if not done away with. Both these changes were desirable. The simpler they made this procedure the better it would be. It was the complication in the present schemes that had made them fail. He hoped that the alterations in the terms of payment to the Treasury would not be too complicated. If they were they would fail as much as the Act of 1891. With regard to the cost of the proceedings, he hoped the Lord Chancellor for Ireland, who knew the subject so well, would endeavour to diminish the terrible cost which many of the proceedings threw on both landlord and tenant. Now comparison had been made between the fall of rents in England and in Ireland. But they could not emphasise too much in that House the fundamental difference that existed between the land systems of the two countries. In Ireland, as a rule, the tenant found nearly all the money for improvements; in England the landlord found all the money. It would be impossible in Ireland to carry out the same system. A millionaire would be necessary to find the money. The difference he had pointed out was important, and when the fall of rents in England and Ireland was discussed, that must be taken into consideration. Many could speak from bitter experience of the serious falls of rent in England—heavier than any falls in Ireland—and there was a large number of estates or farms in this country where the landlord got nothing for the value of the land, and barely got a return for the capital he had laid out. That was a difference so great and marked that it could not be too often commented upon. On the Opposition side of the House they considered that this subject of Irish land should be dealt with, and that the proposals of the late Government were better than those now made. They were in some respects far more far-reaching, and would have settled the question for a longer period. If this was true with regard to the comparison between the Measure of Mr. John Morley and the present Bill, it was true with regard to the Bill as it had now come from the House of Commons and the Bill as their Lordships wished to change it. He implored them to consider carefully their course with regard to Amendments of the Bill. It would be a grievous thing if a Bill which had been accepted more cordially than any similar Bill had been accepted in Ireland and the House of Commons, should be marred to such an extent that it would practically be rejected by the Irish people. If some of the proposals rejected in the House of Commons were carried here, the Bill would not be considered to be worth more than the paper it was printed upon by the Irish people, and in that way the beneficent intentions of the Government would be defeated, and their Lordships would undertake a grave responsibility. He sincerely trusted they would not take on their shoulders the responsibility which now rested on Government, but would in this, as in so many other things, support the Government and send back this Bill in the shape, or nearly in the shape, in which it came from another place. Then they might hope it would do good in Ireland, and be a step further in the direction of settling the Irish land question. If they made Amendments which would be detested or contrary to the views of the Irish people, he was afraid they would do wrong to Ireland, and show that, their Lordships' House being so much out of touch with popular feeling in Ireland was not capable of wise legislation for that country. [*Cheers.*]

LORD ASHBOURNE said he had listened with attention and respect to the Debate, and he ventured to think that where the able speeches which had been delivered were fully and fairly considered, the conclusion arrived at would be that the Bill had been vindicated, and its presentation proved to be necessary and fair. Every speaker had conceded that a Bill was necessary, and some noble Lords had suggested that a short and simple Measure might have been introduced on which all would agree. He never expected to find a Statesman who would be able to turn out an Irish Land Bill on which all parties in Ireland would be entirely agreed. [*Laughter.*] The Government of the day must take the responsibility of framing a Bill which they considered fair and just. It could not be, and should not be, a one-sided Bill, because if it were it was obvious the Measure would then be foredoomed to failure.

The Act of 1881 was passed 15 years ago, and it was clear in the very nature of things, having regard to the difficulty and complexity and far-reaching character of the subject, that in those 15 years, no matter how carefully the Measure had been framed, there must have been developed points requiring explanation, imperfections requiring to be smoothed away, and details where improvments were needed. This Bill, which contained many moderate and many most temperate provisions, was sought to be covered with the prejudice and the atmosphere derived entirely from the prepossessions and prejudices caused by the remembrance of the Act of 1881. Let the sins of the Act of 1881 be upon its head, but they were not to be visited upon this Measure, which merely sought to remedy imperfections, explain difficulties, and enable the law as it existed on the Statute-book to work smoothly, fairly, and justly. ["Hear, hear!"] When closely examined the criticisms directed against the Bill narrowed themselves down to some of a comparatively minor character. His noble Friend the Marquess of Londonderry challenged the way in which the Bill was prepared, and criticised the Chief Secretary for not having consulted the Landowners' Convention. A Chief Secretary for Ireland had enormous difficulties to contend with, and he had never met one who brought to the discharge of his duty more industry or indomitable power of work than the present one; but he was afraid, if it was proclaimed that the Chief Secretary had coveted and asked for the assistance of the Landowners' Convention in framing a Bill which was to give satisfaction to all parties in Ireland, there would be very little chance of its fulfilling that object. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY did not say the Landowners' Convention should have been consulted, but he suggested it would have been well if the Government had consulted those who had had practical experience in connection with land, and whose property, moreover, it was proposed to deal with. ["Hear, hear!"]

LORD ASHBOURNE observed that the Landowners' Convention had published a very able series of papers and reports which everyone had read, so that their views were well known. Again, the Chief Secretary in his residence in Ireland received more than one deputation representing both sides, and there was the fullest possible means of having everybody's views in reference to the matter.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN asked, was the deputation representing the landlords' views received by the Chief Secretary before or after the Bill was introduced?

LORD ASHBOURNE: Before.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN: Before it was drafted?

LORD ASHBOURNE could not go into details, but it was before the Bill was introduced.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I never heard that the Chief Secretary received a deputation from the Landowners' Convention before the Bill was introduced. I believe that after its introduction a leading member of the Landowners' Convention was consulted, but not before.

LORD ASHBOURNE remarked that the views of all parties were set forth in the literature published by the different sides. But, putting that matter aside, what they had got to consider was the actual Bill before them. What were the specific charges which were made against the Bill? One was that in the case of pasture holdings, the limit of exclusion was raised from £50 to £100 valuation. He did not say it was not important, but it was a detail that sank into comparative insignificance beside many of the larger provisions of the Bill. Then there was the turbary section. He did not for one moment minimise the interest and the importance of that section. He quite appreciated the standpoint of the noble Duke who urged that the section might be used harshly against those landlords in exact proportion as they had been kind and considerate, generous and forbearing. That was a criticism that would be borne in mind when they came to consider the language and meaning of the section. The next criticism was levelled against Section 11, which dealt with the determination of the estate of an immediate landlord. This section dealt with a case where there was a head landlord, a middleman, and occupying tenants in possession of the holding. In Section 15 of the Act of 1881 there was a provision that, on the determination of the tenancy of a middleman, the existing sitting tenants should not be disturbed and that they should become the tenants of the head landlord. Then another Act came in and provided—again trying to protect the occupying tenants—against the casualties of the middleman and to try and enable them to sit certain no matter what might happen to the middleman. A further Act provided that, if the middleman surrendered, still the occupying tenant was to be protected. What did this Section 11 do? They found on the decisions of the Court that all cases were not covered where the middleman might lose his estate, there being occupying tenants dependent upon him. The case not so provided for was where the middleman was evicted or liable to eviction. It was considered a hard case that, when the occupying tenants were protected in every other case, there should be this *casus omissus.* He did not say the matter was not entitled to every consideration in Committee, but he thought their Lordships would see that there was a fair and reasonable and just way of looking at the question. The next point was Clause 30, which he was told by his noble Friend would kill purchase. He took as much interest in the purchase code as any one in that House, and if ever there was a Government bound by its traditions and all its pledges to take an interest in the purchase of Irish land with State assistance, it was the present Government. No graver charge could be made against the clause than that it would kill purchase. He need hardly say that it was framed with the very opposite intention, and if he believed it would kill or enfeeble purchase, or do anything other than assist it, he would only be too pleased to listen favourably to any suggestion to amend it. But what was the clause? It was to remove the grievance caused by the delays in carrying out the purchase in the Land Commission. Between the date of the first agreement and the date of the final vesting order too long a time was suffered to elapse, and it was necessary to apply some vigorous and effective method to cope with these delays. This Clause 30 was an honest and loyal effort to enable a vesting order to be made with more speed than it could be made under the old system, taking care that the purchase-money should be at once lodged in the High Court, and that then all the liabilities which previously attached to the land would be bodily transferred to the money, and the purchase could go on without further delay. He was told—and he would weigh the argument with great respect in Committee—that the effect of that would be to deter landlords from subjecting themselves to the accident of being exposed for a long period to the receipt of only a small interest when they had to meet a larger interest and charges. He did not underrate the importance of these matters one bit, and they were topics which were entitled to be pressed in Committee. He admitted that Clause 39, which dealt with sales in the Landed Estates Court, and which was carried in the House of Commons by a majority of over 300, was a very important clause, and that it dealt with large principles which, if challenged in Committee, they should be prepared to defend. It was an abnormal and not a healthy state of things to find in Ireland a vast rental, counted by hundreds of thousands of pounds, under the control of a Receiver Judge in a Court. The Court was never founded for that purpose, and it was not a healthy administration of property. It was, therefore, desirable to deal with that case, and to deal with it, to adopt the words used by Lord Midleton and other Lords, fairly and justly, so as to avoid doing a particle of injustice to any one while seeking to remedy a serious state of facts. Lord Londonderry had spoken of the Bill taking away the last remnant of the landlords' property; Lord Winchilsea had referred to the last residue of the landlords' property being taken; and the Duke of Abercorn had said something about the landlords being stabbed in the back. Now he had gone through the clauses against which any criticism had been directed, and he asked their Lordships which provision in the Bill fairly justified either of these remarks? He denied that the expressions could be reasonably applied to any of the clauses of the Bill. The Measure was one which, he believed, would benefit the tenants substantially by taking away many doubts, clearing up many imperfections, and getting rid of some legal decisions which during the last 15 years had had the effect of putting a hardship upon tenants and doing very little good, if any at all, to the landlords. Lord Castletown had denounced the Government for not having produced a Measure that would prove to be a final Measure, and he indicated that if he had been called in he could have turned out on the spot in five minutes an absolutely final Bill. Well, he supposed they got cautious as they grew older, and he had heard so many prophecies about finality that he did not like to indulge in the *rôle* of too certain prophecy on the subject. ["Hear, hear!"] He said of the Bill that it was a well-intentioned Measure, the object of which was to deal fairly with both landlord and tenant, and he believed that it would work fairly between landlord and tenant, would clear away many doubts and uncertainties, and would give a great stimulus to purchase. One or two noble Lords had used hard words in reference to the Bill, but if they would contrast the Bill with Mr. Morley's Bill of last year, if they had listened to the speech of the noble Earl opposite, and if they had listened to the introductory part of the statement of the noble Marquess who moved the Second Reading, they would be able to appreciate the fact that the Government had applied themselves in a temperate and moderate spirit to the framing of a Land Bill which every one conceded to be necessary. He asked their Lordships to take it that this was a Bill presented fairly and temperately to meet a position which called for legislation, and a Bill which had applied itself to its task in an honest, a fair, a temperate, and a just spirit.

*VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN said he would not have ventured at that late hour to intervene only that he was one of the landlords who had been referred to by his noble Friend, Lord Londonderry, who would be seriously affected by the Bill. He spoke not only as an Irish landlord, but as one who had been for the last six years his own agent amongst a tenantry as hard working, as industrious, and, above all other others, as honest as any tenantry in the world. It seemed to him there never had been sufficient weight given to the fact that they could divide the tenants of Ireland into two classes, the honest and the dishonest. Personally he had to deal with tenants who at the Purchase clauses of the Bill would laugh. Not a single tenant on his estate would, under the existing state of things, think of purchase for a moment, and yet for three years past they had been trying to get him to sell his property. He had always said that if a man wished to buy a piece of land he could not see why he should not; he had said to his tenants:

> "If you come to me and say you want to buy my land, I will do my best to let you. But there are difficulties in the way. If you are going to make those difficulties greater by saying you insist on not giving more than a certain number of years' purchase, and I decline to accept that amount, we shall come to a deadlock."

What in the Bill was going to get over the difficulties between him and his tenants? The Bill bristled with difficulties. There was, for instance, no provision for dealing with the question as to how a landlord was to live if they took his property and kept his money. It was well to remember, too, that from Mr. Morley's Committee several Members, some of whom now belonged to Her Majesty's Government, withdrew, because they could not get the landlords' case presented. What happened next? The Committee presented their Report, and this Government had brought in a Bill which contained a great deal which was recommended by the Committee. When, he asked, did the Government get the landlords' case? The Bill had been run through the House of Commons at a speed which prevented anybody practically discussing it on its merits. Force was no remedy. The Government might cram the Bill down their throats, but they could not make it work if it did not contain provisions that would make it work. For that reason he asked that when the Bill got into Committee they should have an opportunity of showing how it should be amended in a way to make it workable. He would refer to some Acts passed dealing with Irish land since 1860. In 1885 Lord Ashbourne succeeded in passing his Purchase Act, and that Act really made a stand. Some months ago he had the honour of sending to Her Majesty's Government a petition, signed by some 2,000 tenants of Ireland and about 200 landlords, amongst the latter being some of the richest in the South of Ireland, practically asking that the

Ashbourne Act should be revived. He sent the petition to his own tenants in County Antrim, and it was returned with the statement somewhat as follows:—

> "Your petition does not contain any definite system of purchase, but with every other point in it we agree."

Lord Ashbourne's name had really become so much a household word in Ireland that the tenants had not in this case understood purchase unless that name appeared in conjunction with it. It might be interesting to state that in 1891, under the Government valuation, a third in number of the agricultural holdings were under £4. Again, since the October of 1870, half the county cess and poor rate had been allowed, and he thought that they might come to the conclusion that Parliament had been legislating for the Irish tenant, giving him one Land Act after another, and yet it was still affirmed by the leaders of the tenants that they were a most ill-used people. When the Government came into power, they had a record of all these Acts—Acts which had been passed in spite of the opposition of the landlords, who had, as the noble Lord (Viscount Midleton) reminded them, been twice acquitted of doing otherwise than the best they could. It was proved that if there was any advantage, it had been conferred entirely on one class. Was that a good thing? Mr. Gladstone, in 1881, said that the judicial rents were worth more than 20 years' purchase, which had been proved to be entirely wrong. There was one more thing to which he wished to refer: The pledges of Her Majesty's Government were then still intact, and what might they have expected a Land Bill from the Government to be like? The first thing one might have expected would be a Bill that would have no confiscation in it, differing from all that had gone before—a Bill in which every point of agreement between landlord and tenant would have been utilised, and on which they could build up a Measure which might have done good. They were told when the Bill was introduced that it would be non-contentious, and yet they were told that night that the reason why the Lord Lieutenant did not introduce the Bill was that he could not take part in contentious measures. Thus it was now admitted that a Bill which was non-contentious when introduced was now a contentious Measure. They therefore cut away the ground from under their feet for saying that they could not accept Amendments, for if they accepted them from one side they must accept them from another. They might have hoped that they would have a Bill in which the rights of property were respected. They might have hoped that there would have been some foreshadowing of a plan of dealing with the responsibilities of the Sub-Commissioners. He hoped when the Bill got into Committee the Amendments which he should propose would meet with full consideration. When once the Government admitted, as they did in 1881, that a Bill should be passed in mitigation of the then existing conditions, they took a step from which they could never retreat—they admitted the justice of State aid to the sufferers. It then became merely a question of how that aid should be divided among the sufferers. He was delighted to see that the tenants had been very fairly provided for; but why should not the landlords receive their share, even tardily? It was the British Treasury and no one else that kept down the price of land in Ireland. They were willing that the Treasury should keep a check on excessive prices, but the Treasury should by this Bill be made to give up to at least 20 years' purchase of the rents to the tenants who wished to purchase provided that the landlord and tenant could agree upon the sum. He did not see that this Bill had removed any of the difficulties. If the tenant who wished to purchase had paid his rent regularly they advanced him a large sum; if he had not, a less sum; and it was, therefore, the character of the tenant and not of the land that settled the price. That was not a good method of arriving at the value of the land. They suffered from having no standard value in Ireland. Mr. Patterson, a practical surveyor, at a meeting of the Surveyors' Institute on the 25th November 1895, said that—

> "there was no uniform valuation in Ireland which could be depended upon as being what surveyors would consider a proper value of the land."

This Bill did nothing in regard to these matters. It was an extraordinary fact that in cases where the rent was £64, or more, in 1883, when the price of oats was 4s. 10d., it was £46 now, when the price of oats was 5s. 9d. This Bill had created in Ireland not only consternation but indignation. There was no doubt, whatever potentialities there might be in the Bill for the future, it had succeeded at present in welding together into one solid whole every man of property or position, not only the landlords, but every man who owned anything, against Her Majesty's Government. When once the principles of these Irish Land Bills had thoroughly saturated into the English mind, there would be only two courses open—either to repudiate those principles altogether and return to the law of simple contract in Ireland, or else to extend those principles to the law of England. It was impossible at present to speak of the equality of the laws between the two countries, because those laws were most glaringly unequal. The result of the introduction of this Measure had been to send some of the best and most loyal supporters of the Government into the Opposition Lobby in another place, and had produced a sense of injustice in the minds of Irish landlords that would rankle there for many a long day. ["Hear, hear!"]

*THE EARL OF BELMORE entirely concurred in Earl Spencer's remarks that the relations of Irish landlords and tenants should proceed upon amicable lines. This Bill had undoubtedly caused a good deal of alarm in Ireland. Referring to an article in the *Spectator* of July 25th, in which that paper spoke of "grudges against the Government," caused by various matters, including their policy of the Extension of Land Purchase in Ireland, and their disappointing the hopes of the Irish landlords, he said he had read this with some surprise. The Irish landlords had no hopes from whatever Government might be in power. He regarded the Purchase Clauses as the redeeming feature in the Bill. For his part he had no desire to see the Measure thrown out, because, if it only settled the matter for a few years it would be of enormous advantage, seeing that the fact of a Land Bill being in the air had a most mischievous effect in Ireland. But the tenants might make up their minds that they would not get reductions in two ways. They might either obtain them through the Land Courts or through purchase; but a landlord whose rents had been seriously cut down would be in no condition to sell afterwards at a further great loss of income if he could help it, and he regarded general compulsion as quite outside the range of practical politics at present. At the same time, speaking for himself, he thought that the time might come when, in case purchase did not go on naturally, Parliament might deem it advisable that the landlord should agree with the Land Commission for the purchase of his estate without reference to the tenants, the Land Commission to manage the estate until they could get a tenant to purchase from them. Although the clauses relating to "the inherent capacity of the land" had gone, the subject-matter remained to be dealt with. The subject had been described as "academic." In cases where it did not apply, and they were numerous, this was true; but in those where it did apply, it was a very practical one indeed. Just in the same way, what was called "renting tenants on their improvements," might be described as an academic subject. There might be such cases. If there were any, it was a practical matter which had been very fairly dealt with by Lord Justice Fitzgibbon, in Adams *v.* Dunseath. At the same time he believed the weight of evidence given before the Morley Commission was of deterioration as regarded improvements rather than of improvement as a whole in Ireland. With regard to improvements mixed up with the inherent capacity of the land, it was quite fair that the tenant should have full compensation for his outlay. But it would be monstrous to deprive the landlord of the value of the inherent capacity of the land. He would give an illustration from his own personal knowledge, and it was none the worse because the occupier and owner happened to be the same person—himself. He had a stretch of meadow land three-quarters of a mile in length. At the beginning of the century a brook went in a serpentine way over the land, and the course could still be traced. Below was a mill, which must have dammed up the water and frequently flooded all into a lake. Therefore, the actual pastoral or meadowing capacity of the land could not have been great. In the course of time, first of all a straight course was cut for the stream, and later, the main part of the water was diverted in a different direction. If that had been done by the tenant he should have been compensated for the labour and capital spent on the land. But, at the same time, that would be a small sum in comparison with the increased value, and it would be monstrous if the landlord should not have his share of the increased capacity of the land which a small outlay would effect. With regard to Adams *v.* Dunseath, he should like to quote the remarks of Sir Farrar (now Lord) Herschell in the House of Commons in 1883, on a Motion by Mr. Parnell for the Second Reading of the Land Law (Ireland) 1881 Amendment Bill :—

> "It was said that the tenant improved the land and that the landlord raised the rent upon those improvements and confiscated them. But the question was, what were the improvements that belonged to the tenant? In that Bill they were seeking to declare that that was the property of the tenant which could not in any sense be called his. The proposition that a law, however unjust in itself, should be passed in order to satisfy the tenantry of Ireland, or the representatives of Ireland, was one that he hoped would never be admitted for a moment in that House . . . . They had heard about prairie value."

He might say, in passing, that prairie value was not necessarily a lower value than present value, and that seemed to be now admitted by Mr. Healy and, inferentially, by Mr. Dillon.

> "They had heard about prairie value. Hon. Members opposite had contended that all that the landlord was entitled to was prairie value. It proposed that prairie value should be the test of fair rent, and that anything beyond that should be the property of the tenant in occupation of the land. Would any hon. Member say that that was a provision to be accepted as a necessary, just, and righteous provision? It was said, supposing money was spent upon a tenancy which increased the letting value, then that increase was necessarily the property of the tenant, which they should compensate him for as his improvement. He denied that proposition. The Court of Appeal in Ireland had not by a majority, but unanimously, held that that was not the true view."

After some illustrations had been given, the hon. and learned Gentleman (Mr. Healy) added—

> "What made the difference? Simply the inherent qualities of the land. That gave the extra value, and these no more belonged to the tenant than the land itself. Therefore, the judgment in Adams *v.* Dunseath on that point was perfectly correct."

Those were the words of one who was then the Solicitor General of England. He could not doubt that they still expressed the opinions of Lord Herschell. Coming to the Bill itself, Lord Spencer regretted that the Government had not followed the example of the late Government, and put a population limit as a way of defining what a town park was. He disagreed. He thought that would have been an entirely erroneous view, and he considered that the use to which land was put, rather than population, should be the measure of definition of a town park. He did not propose to go through the whole of the Bill, but to confine himself to some points upon which he intended to put down Amendments for the Committee. The first point related to Clause 8, which dealt with the question of easements and turbary. As to turbury, he had seen the Duke of Argyll's letter in that day's *Times*. He did not deny that there was a good deal of force in what the Duke said about the advantage of turbary to the tenant; but the Duke himself, at the end of his letter, qualified what he said at the beginning by showing the absolute necessity for control of the turf bogs on the part of the landlord. If they allowed a bog to be cut wherever and as long as a tenant pleased, they might be pretty sure that it would be cut in such a way as to render the reclamation of it, after the turf had been cut off it, very difficult. The management of turf bogs, where they existed, was one of the most important parts of an agent's duty. He would read the reply which he had received from one of his own agents as to how this clause would work in connection with his estate. He might say that he had two—in Tyrone and Fermanagh—and the writer was agent for the latter. He said :—

> "I do not believe Clause 6 (now 8) will affect you seriously in Fermanagh. I always supplied your tenants with turbary on payment of 5s. a year for a ticket of permission—

that, I should say, is the maximum price for a turf bank,

> "and I often expended more than the rent in making drains and roads to enable the tenants to get turbary. I have known people keep their bog-plots under water in order to flood their neighbour with whom they had a dispute, and only allowed the water to flow when threatened to be denied the right of entry the following year. This power will now be taken away from the landlords, and give rise to many heartburnings and much litigation. In 1884 or 1885, at Manorhamilton Quarter Sessions, Judge Waters said, in my presence, he hoped he should not see the day when the bogs would be taken out of the hands of the landlords, and gave a decree for £5 to a wretchedly poor man whose whole winter fuel was destroyed by his neighbour claiming the turbary of a tract in the landlord's hands. I fear the clause giving turbary will lessen the value of your Tyrone estate. The tracts of bog were an inducement to purchase."

The latter remark I note referred to his having in many instances arranged for purchasers having included in their agreements a certain quantity of free bog, not necessarily adjoining the holdings, proportionate to the rental they were buying. The remarks of Judge Waters, who certainly could not be accused of being a sympathiser with the landlords, proved that this great change in the law should not be undertaken in a hurry—but if at all, only after a great deal more consideration than had been given to it now. But there is one other point; it might happen, and it did happen to himself—that a bog on which tenants had been permitted to cut turf might be actually included in a demesne—he had two such cases. The turf banks would not last very much longer. Those that his tenants cut would probably fail first. Surely it would be a very great hardship if he were obliged by law to give them, out of what he required for his own use, a supply of turf as long as any remained in the bog. Then there were other easements, such as spring wells, rights of way, etc., gravel pits, stones. Was it seriously intended to deal in this off-hand way with these things? Were they going to allow tenants to sell stones and gravel for their own profit under the head of "profit *a prendre*"? Then there was Clause 21, which related to appeal. This clause, as he understood, was introduced into the Bill in Committee in the House of Commons, at 4 o'clock in the morning, without any discussion whatever. Its object was to tie the landlord up to disclose his whole case on an appeal or re-hearing before the case came on. He would reserve for Committee most of what he had to say about that. He would merely say now, that whilst Mr. Sub-Commissioner Bailey, in his examination before the Morley Committee, seemed to imply that it might be well that as much information as could well be should be given at an early stage, still, he pointed out, that important points might often crop up during the hearing of the case which should not be excluded. Lord Chief Baron Palles, moreover, had laid down the rule that a re-hearing should be a re-hearing. Why should that ruling be reversed? The other clause to which he wished to refer was Clause 36. That dealt with the question of the redemption of tithe rent-charge and tithe rent-charge annuities. Very lately he had brought that matter before their Lordships in a Bill to which the Irish Government allowed a Second reading to be given as a recognition of the principle of 45 years' purchase instead of 52 years, as the basis of calculation for redemption. But it was on the understanding that the Bill went no further this Session. Now, although he thought it a pity that the Treasury, whilst admitting the principle, should have limited it for the present in the way they did in this clause, still he was bound by the agreement, so far as redemption was concerned. But there was another matter, outside redemption, which he endeavoured to deal with in that Bill, to which considerable importance appeared to be attached; that was, the placing these annuities on the same footing as the tenants' annuities under Section 24 of the Bill. The Government would not entertain that proposal when his Bill was before the House, so he thought he might claim fairly that that subject formed no part of the bargain to which he had referred, and might ask

*Earl of Belmore.*

their Lordships to consider a new clause in Committee, to give some relief in this matter to landlords as well as to tenant-purchasers as regarded their annuities. He had now dealt with this important and far-reaching Measure, one which might prove a veritable leap in the dark. He thought he might say that, in the 40 years he had had control of his estates in Ireland, he had endeavoured to act justly to the tenants whilst defending his own interests. He had no doubt whatever that the great mass of them—perhaps 500 in number, or more—would freely acknowledge that he would be the last person to deprive any tenant of what was rightly his, or of any compensation to which he was fully entitled. Perhaps this Bill might not affect him personally so much as it would some others. That remained to be seen. But this was not a question with those who were Irish Peers—and he sat there now as the senior representative Peer for Ireland—of merely defending their own interests and their own pockets. They had a duty to perform to a great number of their fellow-countrymen, who were practically unrepresented in the House of Commons, or nearly so. Some of them—many of them—were struggling men. Such reductions of income as were inevitable from a fall in prices they must submit to, whether this Bill passed or not. But beyond that, he maintained that they would not be justified in forcing them over the dividing line between poverty and insolvency. If, on any grounds of public policy, it should be thought necessary to deprive them of rights which previous legislation had reserved to them, it only should, in justice, be done by giving them a full equivalent of compensation, as the wisdom of Parliament should decide.

*THE EARL OF MAYO said it might be well to think a little about the history of the Bill. What made them specially sore on the question was the fact that at one time in the course of the Bill, promises were made to the representatives of the landlord party in the House of Commons in regard to certain Amendments to the Bill, and those promises were afterwards broken. ["Hear, hear!"] One would have thought that even in politics promises made by one gentleman to another would be kept. ["Hear, hear!"] Such was not the case, however, in regard to this Bill. He must say that he gave the greatest praise to the noble Marquess who had charge of the Bill for the extraordinary way in which he explained its very technical provisions. As he saw the Prime Minister was then in his place, he should like to remind him of one fact, and that was the enormous amount of work the Irish Unionist Alliance did for him and his Government at the time of the Home Rule Question. The Alliance worked hard to organise and subscribed liberally, and perhaps the noble Marquess might be surprised to learn that upwards of 80 per cent. of the men who organised that Alliance were Irish landlords. Now, those very men who worked so hard to bring his Government into power, found that when the Government got into office, almost the first thing they did was to bring in a Bill which, in many of its clauses, took away a great deal more of the property of the landowner, and at the same time increased the uncertainties of litigation by extending the indefinite powers of the Land Commissioners. The Lord Chancellor had said that there were no prejudices with regard to the Bill of 1881. Of course the Irish landlords had no prejudices affecting that Bill. The Bill was now an Act on the Statute-book, and they had to obey it. The noble and learned Lord also said that they had only discussed or objected to clauses which were of a minor character. Was Clause 4 or Clause 8 of a minor character? The latter clause dealt with the matter of turbary, and was a very important clause. Indeed, it was not easy to conceive a more outrageous and unjust proposal than was contained in that clause. The landlords of their own will had given certain privileges to their tenants, one of which was to cut turf, and now those privileges were to be entirely given as a right to the tenant, simply handed over from the present owner to the tenant. And not only that, but the tenant would have the power to sell the privileges. Mr. Gerald Balfour, who brought in the Bill, framed it on the framework of Mr. Morley's Bill, and he was sure Mr. Balfour must have done so because he had been such a short time in Ireland that he could not know much of Irish affairs. Therefore he took Mr. Morley's Bill as an excellent framework on which to frame his own Measure. The Lord Chancellor for Ireland had said that during the time Mr. Gerald Balfour was framing the Bill he consulted a great many representatives of different classes, especially the landlords, but he and his friends had no knowledge whatever that a single Irish landlord was consulted. No, the Bill had been brought in, and promises and compromises had been thrown to the winds. The 12 o'clock Rule was suspended in the House of Commons, and the Bill had been forced through the House with the help of Dillonite, Healyite, and Redmondite Home Rulers. [“Hear, hear!”] But it was useful to remember that during the Committee stage of the Bill the Government were once beaten, and they were beaten because they were mean, and attempted to “do” the landlords over a matter which was in reality a piece of Treasury sharp practice. The present Bill was not required. They would welcome with the greatest pleasure a Purchase Bill, and a Purchase Bill only; but this Bill would give rise to tremendously increased litigation between landlord and tenant. Clause 39, for instance, contained a principle which, if applied to any class but Irish landlords, would be damned by every legislative assembly in the world, except that one at the mercy of their so-called friends, a Conservative Government. It was always difficult to bring home to their English friends the great difference which existed between the Irish land system and the system of land tenure in England. They were often told how greatly English rents had been reduced within the last ten or twenty years, and how little in comparison Irish rents had been reduced. In Ireland there was tenant-right; in England tenant-right did not exist. That tenant-right in Ireland could be sold; and its average price had been proved by actual sales to be from twelve to twenty years' purchase. Where in England could they point to such a valuable consideration accruing to a tenant? He would not detain them any longer. They knew how the Bill had been run through the House of Commons. They had seen the screw put on, and every nerve strained to prevent it following the fate of the Education Bill. Their friends there fought well, but they were overpowered by numbers. He and his friends had not finished with the Bill yet. They had their duty before them, and they had to consider the interests of others in Ireland, as well as their own—men and women who were landlords like themselves, but who had no voice in the affairs of this nation and could not make themselves heard. They, with them, resented that their properties and interests should be thrown by a Conservative Government as a sop to the political representatives of a disloyal electorate.

*Lord CLONBROCK said that he, a young, or rather a new, Member of the House, would not have ventured to address their Lordships were it not for the fact that he had been for many years constantly resident in the West of Ireland, and that, therefore, he desired to say a few words as to the way in which the Bill was regarded in that part of Ireland. He wished to speak specially on behalf of the landowners, and in doing so he would remind their Lordships of what the noble Marquess, the Prime Minister, had lately said, namely, that all landowners were not large landowners or wealthy men. There were in his country many small and struggling landlords who, although elevated above their tenants by education and culture, were perhaps in an inferior position to their tenants in obtaining the means of livelihood. Those landowners felt deeply that they had already been deprived by legislation of a considerable amount of property. He did not here refer so much to reduction of rent, although that they held had been arbitrary and exorbitant, and he believed that if comparison were instituted between Ireland and that portion of England which most resembled Ireland in pastoral conditions, their contention would be found to be fully confirmed by fact. But apart from the reduction of rent, by fixity of tenure, the landlords had been deprived of the right of re-entry, and by the establishment of tenant-right where it never before existed, a large slice had been taken from landlords' property. The result was that property which used to sell for from 20 to 25 years' purchase would now only fetch, perhaps, 15 to 18 years' purchase. If a portion of a man's land was taken from him for any public work he was amply indemnified, and he never could see why, if five or six years purchase of his property were taken from a landlord for public advantage, he should not be as fully compensated as if five or six acres of his land were taken to build a railway station or a gasometer. Not only were Irish landlords not compensated when they were deprived of their property, but every obloquy was heaped upon them. It had been said that the landlords were in great measure to blame for their unpopularity, in that they had never been able to attract the people to them; that they had failed to establish a community of feeling between them and the people. He believed this was greatly exaggerated. But if it meant anything it was this: that the landlords had been faithful to the English connection, and attachment to England ought not to be held up as a reproach by any section of Englishmen, even by those whom untoward circumstances had lately induced to modify their previous convictions as to the connection between the two countries. He did not believe that feeling of this kind could have any such effect. On several occasions he had received from his tenantry on his property such marks of regard and kindly feeling that he should always most gratefully remember. He thought the same might be said by many other landlords. But the landlords were guilty of the unpardonable crime of being still possessed of some property which was coveted by others. Moreover, the tenantry were an excitable, impulsive race, and when they were addressed in excited language by orators, no wonder their Celtic natures became excited to an extent that no one who had not lived through that time could properly realise. He had heard a resident magistrate say to the assembled Grand Jury of the county of Galway—

> "If the Crimes Act is not renewed I would not be answerable for 24 hours for the lives of half of you who are sitting round that table."

He had driven at midday into a country town to learn that a poor old friend had just been assassinated. That was soon after the Act of 1881, which was not only to enhance the value of their property, but restore peace and security to Ireland. They had struggled through those evil days, sometimes in imminent danger of their lives, and at other times shunned and persecuted, in all cases with a sense of uncertainty as to the future. The uncertainty still remained, for of late years they were under the constant apprehension of revolutionary legislation. During this time their eyes had always turned to England in the hope of receiving from English justice the sympathy which was denied them in their own country. They had looked forward, as to the promised land, to the advent to power of a strong and independent Government, a Government which would not be compelled by political exigencies to ally itself with the party of agitation, to advocate its views, and obey its behests. They had looked forward to this, not so much in hope of legislation in their favour, as that they would be let alone and allowed to enjoy in security the amount of their inheritance. Judge, therefore, of their feelings when they found the accession of such a Government to power signalised by the introduction of a Measure scarcely less detrimental to their interests than that of the preceding Administration. It was not only disappointment, it almost amounted to despair. He had been asked by members of old Roman Catholic families—old Whigs who had joined hands with them when the Union was in danger—if this was the sort of Measure they had a right to expect from a Unionist and Conservative Government. To his sorrow there was only one answer to that question. It might be said that, if they could get neither side of the House to listen to them, it was pretty clear that their case was not a strong one. He could not accept that conclusion; the reason, he believed, was in their political insignificance. There were but two courses in Ireland by which the attention of English Statesmen could be attracted—by resistance to the law and by votes in the ballot-box. The landlords of Ireland were a law-abiding and orderly body, and were too small in number to turn the scale at Parliamentary elections. That was the reason why so little regard was paid to their interests. In the Bill before them a bias against the landlord was manifest in every page. He would not, as he had intended, go through the various clauses at so late an hour, but he trusted the Government would listen to the Amendments that would be proposed, so that by adopting some of them, it might be possible to put the Measure in such shape that, without taking away from the tenant that which had been secured to him, they should prevent any further encroachment on the property of the much-misused landlord. ["Hear, hear!"]

Bill read a Second time.

THE PRIME MINISTER: I propose that we should take the Committee Stage, if it is agreeable to the House, on Thursday next. I understand that to take it earlier would be too soon for the noble Lords who desire to put down Amendments.

Bill accordingly committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

## LONDON UNIVERSITY COMMISSION BILL [H.L.].

Further proceeded with after the Third Reading (according to Order).

Clause 3,—

### POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSIONERS.

(1.) The Commissioners shall make statutes and regulations for the University of London in general accordance with the scheme of the Report hereinbefore referred to, but subject to any modifications which may appear to them expedient after considering any representations made to them by the Senate or Convocation of the University of London, or by any other body or persons affected.

(2.) In framing such statutes and regulations, the Commissioners shall see that provision is made for securing adequately the interests of collegiate and non-collegiate students respectively.

(3.) Statutes and Regulations made under this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything in any Act of Parliament, charter, deed, or other instrument.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE) moved, at the end of the clause, to insert the following words:—

"Provided that no statutes or regulations shall preclude the University from accepting, if it sees fit, the administration of funds offered for University purposes, whatever may be the conditions attached to such administration."

Amendment agreed to.

*Lord Clonbrock.*

Clause 4,—

### APPROVAL OF STATUTES AND REGULATIONS.

(1.) When any statute or regulation ha been made by the Commissioners, a notice of it having been made, and of the place wher copies of it can be obtained, shall be publishe in the *London Gazette*, and the statute or regulation shall be laid as soon as may be befor both Houses of Parliament, and shall not b valid until it has been approved by He Majesty the Queen in Council.

(2.) If either House of Parliament withi forty days, exclusive of any period of prorogation, after a statute or regulation has been lai before it, presents an address praying th Queen to withhold her assent from the statut or regulation, or any part thereof, no furthe proceedings shall be taken on the statute or regulation, or on the part thereof to which th address relates, but this provision shall be without prejudice to the making of a new statute o regulation.

(3.) The Senate or Convocation of the University of London, or any other person or bod directly affected by any such statute or regulation, may, within thirty days after the notification thereof in the *London Gazette*, petitio Her Majesty in Council to withhold he approval of the whole or any part thereof.

(4.) Her Majesty in Council may refer an such petition to a Committee of the Priv Council, with a direction that the Committe hear the petitioner personally or by counsel and report specially to Her Majesty in Counci on the matter of the petition.

(5.) Thereupon it shall be lawful for He Majesty, by Order in Council, either to declar her approval of the statute or regulation i whole or in part, or to signify her disapprova thereof in whole or in part, but any such disapproval shall be without prejudice to th making of a new statute or regulation.

(6.) The cost of any petition under thi section may be regulated by the Committee t which the petition is referred.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE moved, in Sub-section (3), to leave ou the words "thirty days" and to inser instead thereof the words "three months.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill passed, and sent to the Commons

## COAL MINES REGULATION ACT (1887 AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

### CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Tuesday next—(*The Earl of Dudley*).—[No. 231].

### LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Tuesday next—(*Lord Belper*).—[No. 232.]

### FINANCE BILL.

To be read 2ª on Tuesday next; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered, in order to its being dispensed with—(*The Lord Privy Seal*).

### NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

Second Reading (which stands appointed for Monday next) put off to Tuesday next.

### BANK HOLIDAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER, in moving the adjournment of the House, said that as Monday was Bank Holiday, and as there was no business upon the Paper for the day, he moved that the House on it rising do adjourn until Tuesday next.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at a quarter past Twelve o'clock a.m., to Tuesday next, half-past Five o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Friday, 31st July 1896.*

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

### DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) moved:—

> "That, in the case of the Dublin Corporation Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited."

MR. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour) said he desired to ask Mr. Speaker's ruling on some points of order. The first was whether the Committee which had charge of the Bill had gone outside the Instructions of the House? On July 13th the hon. Member for North Louth (Mr. T. M. Healy) moved the following Instruction:—

> "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to inquire into the advisability of extending the municipal franchise to all Parliamentary voters except lodgers, and of providing that the burgess lists shall be revised and made up by the same persons and at the same time as the Parliamentary Register, before the increased powers proposed to be given by the Bill are conferred upon the Corporation, and if they think fit to make provision in the Bill for the same."

On that Instruction Mr. Speaker said—

> "It seemed to him that it was somewhat doubtful whether the Instruction was in order or not, and if it had been objected to he should have liked some further time to consider it in connection with the terms of the Bill. As, however, it appeared to be accepted by general consent, he did not think it necessary to raise any objection."

That was an Instruction to the Committee to extend the franchise, and not to deprive any class of the citizens of the franchise which they at present possessed and exercised. Clause 15, which the Committee embodied in the Bill, dealt with the franchise. The clause included on the list of burgesses, all persons on the Parliamentary register, omitting lodgers and persons qualified to appear on the register in respect of premises not situate within the municipal boundary. There was in Dublin a considerable body of persons entitled to vote in respect of the occupation of warehouses, shops, or offices, whose residence was not within the city but within seven miles of the boundary. The clause would disfranchise those persons, and he submitted that the Committee therein exceeded their powers. His second point of order was with respect to Clauses 19 and 20, which provided for minority representation. The hon. Member for Londonderry had an Instruction down specifically relating to minority representation, but on objection being taken by the Chief Secretary it was withdrawn, and he submitted that after that it was not competent for the Committee to deal with minority representation under another Instruction not specifically mentioning that subject. His next point of order related to the Instruction of the hon. Member for North Monaghan, which was :—

> "that the Committee have power to make provision for an amendment of the law as to the election and tenure of office of aldermen, councillors, and assessors, and as to the employment and tenure of office of any officers annually elected by the corporation, or appointed by any persons nominated by the corporation."

The Committee had not confined themselves to the officers elected by the corporation ; because the borough assessors were elected by the burgesses at large. Moreover, this clause relating to the borough assessors involved an additional burden on the Imperial revenue, and on that ground would be out of order.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) : On the point of order, Sir, is it not the fact that the guardian of order in Committee is the Chairman, and that it has always been held to be most inconvenient for Mr. Speaker to engage himself with what went on in Committee when he did not hear the arguments ?

MR. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) said that when he withdrew his Instruction, which referred merely to one form of minority representation, he withdrew it in favour of the other Instruction.

*MR. SPEAKER : With regard to the Question of the hon. Member for North Louth, it is quite true that in all Committees the Chairman is the guardian of order, and decides all points which arise in Committee. But when there is an Instruction from the House, and the Bill comes back from the Committee with matters in it which are outside that Instruction, then the whole matter is before the House, and it would be my duty to give my opinion as to whether or not the clauses of the Bill did go beyond the Instruction. Therefore, the hon. Member for the Harbour Division is entitled to my opinion on that point. As to the first clause to which the hon. Member has taken objection. The Instruction with regard to the franchise was to inquire into the advisability of extending the municipal franchise to all Parliamentary voters except lodgers. That was the material part of the Instruction ; and it only gives powers to extend the franchise. As far as I have been able to make myself acquainted with the Act, the hon. Member for the Harbour Division is right in saying that the present municipal franchise includes persons living within seven miles of the boundaries who occupy tenements within the city. That franchise has been taken away by the clause, which is clearly beyond the Instruction. To take away a franchise is a serious matter, which no Committee have a right to do unless authorised to do it by the nature of the Bill itself or by an Instruction. If it be by an Instruction it ought to be by an express Instruction, or at least one drawn in terms clearly wide enough to empower the Committee to take away that franchise. In this Instruction there was no authority given to disfranchise, and to the extent to which it does so the clause is beyond the powers of the Committee. As to the point upon Sections 19 and 20, the Instruction of the hon. Member for North Monaghan was :—

> "That the Committee have power to make provision for an amendment of the law as to the election of aldermen, councillors, and assessors."

Those are general words, and would, I think, include the power to give a minority vote. But then the point is taken that because the hon. Member for Londonderry put an Instruction on the Paper specifically referring to the minority vote, which was withdrawn, that the Committee could have no power to deal with the subject of minority representation under the Instruction of the hon. Member for North Monaghan. I think that is not so. An Instruction brought forward and withdrawn is as if it had never existed. All that the Speaker or the Chairman of Committees have to look to is the Instruction actually given to the Committee. With regard to Clause 23, the hon. Member for the Harbour Division is mistaken in supposing that the only offices which there was power for the Committee to deal with were offices held by officers annually elected by the Corporation. They were entitled, quite apart from those offices, to inquire into the election of assessors who are specifically named. But in that clause the Committee have also gone beyond their powers, because they have not only dealt with the offices of the assessors, but they have created two new officers—namely, two additional revising barristers—who are to be appointed by the Lord Lieutenant under the 20th & 21st Vict., chap 58. On referring to that Act I find that the powers of the Lord Lieutenant to appoint revising barristers are accompanied by the provision that their salaries are to be paid out of moneys to be voted by Parliament. It is quite clear that the Committee had no power to authorise the appointment of officers whose salaries are to be paid out of moneys to be voted by Parliament; and, therefore, that section is also out of order. Of course, the whole of the clauses from 15 to 26 are clauses which were put into the Bill only under the powers of these two Instructions; and the usual course where a Committee have only in part exceeded their instructions, is to refer back to the Committee those parts of the Bill in which they have exceeded their instructions. It is a matter entirely for the House and not for me, but I would suggest that, inasmuch as these sections from 15 to 26 form a code as it were, the proper course would be to refer the whole of these sections back to the Committee to deal with them, because it is impossible for the House to know exactly how far the Committee were influenced in framing one section by the form which they have adopted for other sections. That would seem to be the most reasonable course.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I understand, Sir, you have recommended the House to refer back to the Committee certain portions of the Bill. At what stage will a Motion carrying out that suggestion be appropriate?

*MR. SPEAKER: It might be made now.

MR. HARRINGTON said that was the Motion he intended to make, of which he had given notice. It was in these terms, "That the Bill be recommitted to the former Committee." The hon. Member said he wished to put the House in possession of certain facts in regard to this Bill. It was a Bill of exceedingly narrow scope. It was promoted by the Dublin Corporation, and the exception he took to the clauses mentioned had reference to the permanent appointment of certain officers who came here from Dublin to promote the Bill, who appeared to have made a bargain with a certain Member of the House, and who, as the result of their visit to London, went home to Dublin with permanent appointments in their pockets, and their salaries increased. One of the assessors of the City of Dublin was a counsel who appeared before the Select Committee. No more scandalous use was ever made of private Bill legislation than that the very counsel who appeared before the Select Committee should, without notice to the citizens or Corporation, without the question ever being raised at meetings of the citizens, simply because he came in contact with the hon. and learned Member for North Louth, be enabled to go home with a permanent appointment, and his salary increased by £350 a year, while the citizens of Dublin who had the power of annually electing him, were deprived by this Bill of the power for ever electing him hereafter. The other case to which he referred was that of the Sub-Sheriff of Dublin. That gentleman never was an official of the Dublin Corporation, the Corporation never had anything to do with his appointment. Like all Sheriffs he was the mere nominee of the High Sheriff, who was appointed for the year. Now, the Sub-Sheriff was a personal friend of his own. Probably, in the course he was now taking he would incur the Sub-Sheriff's enmity for ever, but he would be unworthy of the position he occupied as a Member of Parliament, if he allowed this House to make itself the instrument of a corrupt bargain and a corrupt job. Why should the Sub-Sheriff of Dublin be made a permanent official when no other Sub-Sheriff enjoyed a permanent tenure? Why, because he was sent over by the citizens to promote this Bill, being Chairman of the Waterworks Committee, and in order to secure his sanction to fanciful provisions with regard to minority representation, that the other safeguards by which the hon. Member for Louth was showing his zeal for the Conservative Party in Dublin for the first time—why should the Sub-Sheriff be favoured in this way? He should be amazed if the English House of Commons would allow themselves to be made the instrument of a corrupt bargain of that kind, and if it did, all he could say was that the lesson it taught to the citizens of Dublin would be learnt by the people of Ireland. The citizens of Dublin had paid £8,000 for the promotion of this little Bill, and the result was that their own officers, elected annually, subject to the control of the Corporation and the citizens, now obtained a permanent appointment in order to square them to accept the fanciful provisions of this Bill. The hon. Member concluded by moving that the Bill be re-committed to the former Committee.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said it was a curious fact that the hon. Member should have spoken with so much heat. He claimed to have some slight knowledge of the question of the assessors. The question stood thus. Every Bill that had been brought in to extend the municipal franchise had abolished the office of assessor. That was felt to be a hardship, and when his Bill was going through Grand Committee last year, complaint was made of the abolition of the offices. He thought that the Solicitor General for Ireland was a Member of the Committee. When the complaint was made to the Grand Committee he asked the then Liberal Solicitor General (Sir F. Lockwood) to give these gentlemen a guarantee that they would be appointed Parliamentary Revising Barristers. He obtained that pledge, and it was in fulfilment of this pledge that the so-called corrupt bargain was entered into. The hon. Member who had just spoken and the hon. Member for Waterford sat on the Committee, and they had

*Mr. Harrington.*

not a word to say about the so-called corrupt bargain. That was the story with regard to the assessor. As to the Sub-Sheriff, he said that he was a man to whom he had not spoken for six years. [*Laughter.*] He was the strongest Parnellite in Dublin, and in a recent speech about him that gentleman announced that his action against Mr. Parnell would be remembered, not only for himself, but for his children's children—an eventuality which had scarcely yet arisen. [*Laughter.*] This gentleman held his office under an annual tenure, and when his Franchise Bill was going through the House of Commons, he was naturally alarmed at the possible loss of his office, and letters appeared in the paper which he believed were written by this gentleman. The Sub-Sheriff appeared to be of opinion that he was promoting a Franchise Bill for the purpose of hustling him as a political opponent. Accordingly, as Her Majesty's Government had acted in the case of Armagh when they extended the Franchise to Armagh, providing that the existing officials should not be dismissed except with the consent of the Lord Lieutenant, he thought it was only fair, when dealing with political opponents, that those gentlemen should hold office as in the past and during good behaviour. If this be Tammany Hall work, he was proud of it. Who were the gentlemen who objected to this annual tenure of the Sub-Sheriff? There was a Motion on the Paper of the hon. Member for North Dublin, who was in sympathy with the hon. Member for the Harbour Division. Was this a corrupt bargain? It followed his clause word for word, and if he was corrupt what was the position of the hon. Member for North Dublin? He provided a permanent tenure for his political enemy, the Sub-Sheriff; the hon. Member provided a permanent tenure for his political friend, the President of the Court of Conscience.

Mr. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.) rose to order.

*Mr. SPEAKER said that both hon. Members were travelling a little outside the question before the House.

Mr. CLANCY: I put down this Notice of Motion, and intended to propose it only in the event of the hon. Member's clause being passed.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that the only point was as to the corrupt bargain. There was not a friend of his provided for by these Instructions, not a man who was not a bitter political enemy. He asked leave to move an Amendment to confine the Instruction to recommit certain clauses of the Bill on this ground. The hon. Member for the Harbour Division wanted to recommit the whole Bill; in other words, he agreed with the hon. Member for South Dublin, and wanted to fight over again all the question about the Water Clauses. As the Committee had considered this matter throughout, and as only two minute points were practically challenged, he thought it would only be a fair thing to refer the Bill back on the two clauses on which the action of the Committee had been challenged in the House. The clause he proposed gave the Conservatives of Dublin twice the representation they now enjoyed. The hon. Member for West Belfast, on the Derry Minority Clause and the Belfast Minority Clause, said that when passing Franchise Bills elsewhere, the Nationalists never provided for the Conservatives of Dublin. The Conservatives had now 11 seats on the corporation, and his clause would give them 15 to 20 seats. It was this which had roused the indignation of the hon. Member who knew so much about the "bosses" of Tammany Hall.

Colonel GUNTER (York, W.R., Barkston Ash) asked that the word "former" be omitted, and the Bill transferred to another Committee. He had now been eight weeks on the Committee.

Mr. HARRINGTON: I should accept the Motion to omit the word "former" and to have "a Committee" substituted.

Colonel GUNTER moved that the words "to a former Committee" be omitted.

Motion agreed to.

On the Question, "That the Bill be recommitted,

Mr. T. M. HEALY moved, after the word "recommitted" to add the words

"in respect of Clauses 15 and 23, to reconsider the same and bring them within the scope of the Instructions of the House."

Mr. HARRINGTON asked whether he would be in order in moving that the Clauses 15 to 26 inclusive be recommitted if the Amendment was put first?

*Mr. SPEAKER said that the hon. Member had already moved.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said that he had understood Mr. Speaker to say that it would not be possible to limit the Committee to a discussion of those portions of the Bill with reference to which they had exceeded their powers.

Mr. HARRINGTON: I move, Sir——

*Mr. SPEAKER: The proper course will be to deal with the Amendment now before the House. When that has been dealt with another Amendment can be moved.

Mr. CLANCY: Supposing that I desire to recommit the Bill in respect of clauses before Clause 15, could I make a Motion to that effect if this Amendment was carried?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Yes; if these words are struck out, then it will be open to the hon. Member to move to insert other words.

Mr. CLANCY: If the Amendment of the hon. Member for Louth is carried —namely, the Amendment to recommit the Bill in respect of certain clauses beginning with Clause 15, should I be in order in moving that previous clauses be also recommitted?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Supposing that this Amendment is defeated, then the main question will remain, "That this Bill be recommitted," and on that it will be open to the hon. Member to move that the recommittal shall be in respect of certain clauses.

Mr. CLANCY: But supposing this Amendment is carried?

*Mr. SPEAKER: I think the proper course to adopt will be to insert the word "only" after the words "Clause 23," in the Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for Louth. Will the hon. Member for Louth consent to that?

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Yes, Sir.

Question put, "That those words be there added."

The House divided:—Ayes, 83; Noes, 139.—(Division List, No. 360.)

MR. VESEY KNOX moved to insert the words :—

"in respect to Clauses 15 to 26 to reconsider the same and bring them within the scope of the instruction of the House."

MR. CLANCY, on a point of order, pointed out that the hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin had a Notice of Motion on the Paper to recommit the Bill in respect of some earlier clauses.

*MR. SPEAKER : The Motion of the hon. Member for South Dublin is to recommit the Bill generally.

MR. HARRINGTON said that this Amendment was merely an endeavour to shut out from the consideration of the Committee every other question except the question of order raised by Mr. Speaker. The Chairman of the Committee was opposed to the inclusion of any of these clauses, and if this Amendment was carried, he could simply preclude the Committee from the consideration of any other question except the question of bringing these clauses in order. He appealed to the House to reject the Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that the whole position taken up by the hon. Gentleman was that the Committee had acted *ultra vires* with regard to Clause 15.

MR. HARRINGTON said his Motion was for the recommittal of the Bill in respect to one or two clauses. It was only on the point of order that the question of *ultra vires* arose.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that Mr. Speaker had ruled that Clause 15 was *ultra vires.* He moved an Amendment to recommit Clause 15 and other clauses, but Mr. Speaker decided that Clause 15 was *ultra vires.* The Government held the view that the whole of the clauses should be brought into harmony with the Instruction, and that was the effect of the Motion now made. The whole object of the proceedings of the hon. Member for the Harbour Division of Dublin was to kill the Franchise Clauses, and he now asked that if this Bill was sent back to the Committee, the House should not allow the clauses which had not incurred the objection of the Chairman to be dealt with again. The Committee having dealt with these clauses, no exception should be taken to them. He asked the House to agree to the Motion now made, that the clauses should be reconsidered only with a view to bringing them into harmony with the Instruction carried by the House.

*MR. SPEAKER was understood to say that he could only put the words "in respect to Clauses 15 to 26." If he put the remainder, "to reconsider the same, and bring them within the scope of the Instruction of the House," it would really be reviving the proposal which the House had already rejected on a Division.

MR. KNOX said he understood that Mr. Speaker had advised the House that there might be a difficulty in the Committee bringing the two clauses into harmony with the Instruction of the House, without altering others. He did not understand that it was the intention of the House in its last vote that the whole question of the Bill should be reopened.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that as the clauses were to be recommitted, it was necessary that the Committee should know on what grounds. He submitted that the Committee ought to know on what Instruction they were to act.

MR. KNOX asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn; Motion to recommit the Bill agreed to.

Ordered, that the Bill be recommitted.

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UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT 1889
(ORDINANCE No. 151).

Paper [presented 30th July] to be printed. [No. 323.]

UNIVERSITY (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889
(ORDINANCE No. 152).

Paper [presented 30th July] to be printed.—[No. 324.]

UNIVERSITY (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889
(ORDINANCE No. 153).

Paper [presented 30th July] to be printed.—[No. 325.]

UNIVERSITY (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889
(ORDINANCE No. 154).

Paper [presented 30th July] to be printed.—[No. 326.]

## *QUESTIONS.*

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### METROPOLITAN POLICE UNIFORM.

*Sir **CHARLES DILKE** (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a report of a case heard in Lambeth County Court on the 23rd July, in the course of which the plaintiff, George R. Glenie, of Heber Road, East Dulwich, clothing manufacturer, is reported to have stated in evidence that he made a suit of uniform for the Metropolitan Police for 1s. 3d.; and, whether there is any truth in this statement?

*The **SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT** (Sir Matthew White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool): No, Sir, I have not seen the report of this case, but Glenie has stated in reply to an inquiry that the report is incorrect and that he really said (pointing at the same time to a constable in Court) "I can make a policeman's suit for one and eightpence." Glenie, in fact, has never made a uniform for the Metropolitan Police. As the right hon. Member is aware, stringent clauses are inserted in the police clothing contracts for the purpose of ensuring fair wages, and I have every reason to believe that they are successful.

### GLASGOW MEAT MARKET.

Mr. **R. SOUTTAR** (Dumfriesshire): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been drawn to notices which have been exhibited on the stances of the Glasgow Meat Market intimating that from and after this date no co-operative society will be supplied there; and whether the posting of such notices in public places constitutes a breach of the law; and, if so, whether any effort will be made to prevent the law being so infringed in future?

Mr. **J. B. BALFOUR** (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that a body calling itself the Traders Defence Association of Scotland is bringing pressure to bear upon employers with the object of causing them to intimate to the persons in their employment who are members of co-operative societies that they must either sever their connection with such societies or leave their employment, and that employers have in some cases posted in their works notices to that effect; whether he is aware that a notice has been posted on stances in the Meat Market of Glasgow to the effect that, in compliance with a resolution come to at a mass meeting of master fleshers held in Trades Hall on Thursday, 25th June 1896, no co-operative society will be supplied at that establishment; whether, seeing the Meat Market of Glasgow is a public market, the proceedings above-mentioned, or any of them, constitute violations of the Truck Acts or of the law relative to conspiracy, or are otherwise illegal; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter?

*The **LORD ADVOCATE** (Mr. Graham Murray, Buteshire): I am informed that notices of the nature referred to in this Question and in that of my right hon. and learned Friend opposite were posted in the Meat Market at Glasgow which is a public market under the management of the Glasgow Corporation. They were objected to, and by the instructions of the authorities were removed. As regards the general question of the legality of such notices, and the propriety of my taking action in any such matter, I have to remind my right hon. Friend that if any illegal practice is being carried on, it should be reported by the person or persons aggrieved in ordinary form by information to the Procurator Fiscal, when it would be considered in due course.

### GREENWICH PARK.

Lord **HUGH CECIL** (Greenwich): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he is aware that heaps of road scrapings and the contents of dustbins are deposited in different parts of Greenwich Park; whether during the hot weather such heaps give forth a disagreeable smell; and whether he will take steps to have the nuisance so caused abated?

*THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): For some years the Office of Works has been effecting improvements in the surface of the land in Greenwich Park, and has been endeavouring to promote the growth of grass, shrubs, etc. To this end, manure (road-sweepings but not dustbin refuse) has been used. With a view to avoid, as far as possible, the unpleasant smell complained of, instructions have been given to cover the sweepings with dry earth whenever work ceases.

### PEAP'S CHARITY (NORTHAMPTONSHIRE).

MR. F. A. CHANNING (Northampton, E.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Thirsk, as a Charity Commissioner, (1) whether the Charity Commission have considered the questions arising in the year 1895 as to the administration of Peap's Charity, at Raunds, Northamptonshire, and have, in reply to an inquiry by the Parish Council and the present trustees, stated that the proceeds of the charity should be administered and applied by the whole body of the trustees, as constituted at the time of such application; (2) whether it appears that the then vicar of Raunds, the Rev. A. E. Oldroyd, applied to the national school both half-year's rents, paid in April and October 1895, without calling together the trustees; (3) whether he is aware that the new trustees of the parochial charities, nominated by the Parish Council on 22nd April 1895, were not summoned to a meeting by the vicar till October; that this meeting was originally called for 11th October, the date upon which the second half-year's rent was payable, then altered to 17th October, and the matter of Peap's Charity held over till 24th October, while the rents were paid to the vicar on the 19th; that the vicar declined either to attend any subsequent meeting of the trustees or to refund the rents for the trustees to administer and apply in pursuance of their duties; that, without consulting either the Parish Council or the trustees nominated by the council, he sent an application for a new scheme for the charity on behalf of himself and some of the former trustees of the charity; and that the Parish Council has passed a resolution declaring the draft scheme to be objectionable and unnecessary; and, (4) whether the Charity Commission will represent to Mr. Oldroyd that he has acted improperly in applying the rents of 1895 at his own discretion without the consent of the duly appointed trustees, and that it is his duty to repay those rents to the trustees for them to deal with according to law, and will also withdraw the draft scheme after the expression of opinion of the duly elected local authority of the parish.

MR. GRANT LAWSON (York, N.R., Thirsk): The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The answer to the second is Yes, but, as to the rent of April 1895, it was received by the vicar before the appointment of new trustees was completed, and paid by him in a manner which the old trustees had sanctioned for many years. The Commissioners do not think there was any occasion for a special meeting of trustees in the case of the April rent. In reply to the third, I have to say that Mr. Oldroyd states that the appointment of trustees by the Parish Council was not communicated to him until about the beginning of October, and that the meeting then summoned by him for October 11th was postponed until the 17th, after communication to the trustees individually. It was actually held on October 17th, and the question of the disposal of the October rent of the charity was not raised at it by anybody. No resolution of the new trustees having been passed altering the method of disposal of the money, when the vicar as treasurer received the rent, he paid it into the bank to the same account as usual. Probably it will be sufficient if I answer to the last part of this paragraph and the latter part of the 4th, that the scheme will not be proceeded with in deference to the wishes of the Parish Council. The Commissioners have already informed Mr. Oldroyd that he made a mistake in his application of the rents, but they do not consider that this is a case of misappropriation sufficient to justify a requirement to replace which could only be enforced by an application to the Court.

### HANWELL SCHOOLS.

MR. ERNEST FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether it is his intention to allow the Hanwell School Managers to proceed with the erection of an infant block, in spite of the recommendation of the Poor Law Schools Inquiry Committee that the existing schools should not be enlarged (page 15); is it his intention to allow the Mile End Guardians to proceed with the erection at North Weald of a series of cottages, forming an artificial village for pauper children, in spite of the statements and recommendations of the Poor Law Schools Inquiry Committee; is he aware that each bed in a similar village, Hornchurch, cost £189 5s. 4d. (page 152), and a yearly expenditure of £38 6s. 7d. per child, whereas the boarding-out system cost £13 6s. 9d. per child per annum, and with no capital charge; and will he advise the Mile End Guardians to board out the children chargeable to that union before involving the ratepayers in the proposed expense?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): As regards the Hanwell School the latest proposal is the revival of a previous scheme—suggested, I find, in 1894. But it was only received within the last two days and I have not yet had time to consider it, but I am in general sympathy with the views of the Committee with regard to the larger schools. With respect to the Hamlet of Mile End, I stated last May, that the Board had informed the Guardians in December 1893, that they were prepared to approve of the purchase of land at North Weald as a site for new schools, and an order was subsequently issued authorising the purchase. I further stated that, under the circumstances, if the Guardians desired and thought it necessary to erect schools on this land on the grouped cottage system, I should not feel justified in withholding sanction to their doing so. I also stated on the same occasion that I had no reason to doubt the approximate accuracy of the statements in the Question as to the cost of the schools on the Cottage-Home system at Hornchurch and Banstead. The system of boarding-out of children is one which has the entire sympathy of the Board, but at the same time they attach the greatest importance to a judicious selection of homes and careful supervision of the children boarded out. If the Guardians are willing and able to avail themselves of the system of boarding out to a much larger extent than at the present time, and the circumstances admit of it, the Board would view with favour any such proposal; but to attempt to force a Board of Guardians—assuming that I had the power to do so—to adopt that system, by refusing to sanction any other means of providing for the children is more than I should feel that I was justified in doing.

### MILK RAILWAY RATES.

SIR JOHN DORINGTON (Gloucester, Tewkesbury): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Great Western and Midland Railway Companies, having established rates for the carriage of milk over their respective lines for distances between 40 and 100 miles at 1d. per gallon, empties free, are entitled to make a charge of 1½d. per gallon when conveyed such distances over the two lines combined, and when conveyed jointly over the Great Western, Midland, and Taff Vale lines, 1⅜d. per gallon; and, whether the Board of Trade could bring any influence to bear on these companies to make them give a through rate equal to that for the equivalent mileage on either of the two lines?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): The companies referred to are entitled to make a charge a great deal higher than that referred to in the Question, but they put in force the rate mentioned, which is a considerable concession on their part. The Board of Trade are considering a complaint under Section 31 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, upon the subject referred to in the last paragraph of the hon. Baronet's Question, but very considerable difficulty is experienced in applying to a through rate a sum of two local rates.

### NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing there is no picture by Raphael in the National Gallery in Dublin, he will advise the Treasury to purchase the Colonna Raphael, now offered for sale to the authorities of the British National Gallery, for the National Gallery of Ireland?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I will communicate with my right hon. Friend the Secretary to the Treasury on this subject, but I am ignorant at the present moment as to whether the authorities of the English National Gallery are in treaty for the purchase of this particular picture, or as to the amount at which it has been offered for sale.

## KAFIRISTAN.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the India Office has received a copy of the letter from the Amir of Afghanistan of the 4th December 1895, referred to in paragraph 4 of the Dispatch from the Government of India to the Secretary of State dated Simla, 22nd April 1896; whether he has received the information asked for in his Dispatch of 17th April respecting military operations and the fate of the tribes in Kafiristan; and, whether he will lay all the correspondence referring to Kafiristan on the Table of the House before the rising of Parliament.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): A copy of the Amir's letter referred to has been received at the India Office, but it relates to other matters besides that referred to in the passage quoted, and it would not be in the public interest to lay it on the Table. My Dispatch of the 17th April was crossed by the letter from the Government of India of the 22nd idem. No subsequent reply has been received from the Government of India. There is no further correspondence relating to Kafiristan which I can lay on the Table.

## SCHOOL BOARD EXPENDITURE.

MR. T. P. WHITTAKER (York, W.R., Spen Valley): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, when he stated that no claim for arrears for School Boards, under Section 97 of the Act of 1870, has yet been received, he had overlooked the correspondence of the Department with the Heckmondwike School Board, and especially their letter of 2nd June, and the reply of the Department of 4th June which said that their Lordships cannot now entertain the claim for the year ending 29th September 1894; and, whether in view of his statement that claims would be considered in a fair spirit, and if necessary, legal advice would be taken, he took legal advice with regard to the claim from Heckmondwike, and can now state the views of the Department with regard to the payment of these arrears?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): The correspondence referred to in paragraph one of the Question has recently been brought to my notice. The whole question of the liability of the Government for arrears is under the consideration of the Committee of Council. They will take such legal advice as they may deemed necessary, but some time must necessarily elapse before a decision can be arrived at.

MR. WHITTAKER: I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, when the Education Department estimates the amount of money required for the service of the year, it knows what amounts the various school boards are entitled to under Section 97 of the Act of 1870, and makes provision accordingly, whether all the boards entitled to the aid ultimately apply for the amount due or not?

SIR J. GORST: No, Sir; the estimate is based on the number of boards which, on a comparison with previous years, are considered likely to apply for the grant.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS (TRAFFIC RECEIPTS).

MR. SOUTTAR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether an estimate can be given of the extent of the diminution which certain Indian railways have of late suffered in their traffic returns; and, whether it can be said how far the diminution is attributable to the drought and how far to causes of a more permanent nature?

**Lord GEORGE HAMILTON**: The latest returns show a decrease of 619,950 tens of rupees in the gross earnings of Indian railways from the 1st January to 6th June 1896, as compared with the corresponding period of 1895. This decrease is attributable to short crops and some consequent scarcity—but not, so far as I am aware, to causes of a permanent nature.

## DEATH OF A WORKMAN (GLASGOW).

**Mr. JASPER TULLY** (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been called to the death of a workman named Hugh Gilheany, who was killed while in the employment of Messrs. Duncan and Sons, of Glasgow, in the month of June 1894; that his father Thomas Gilheany, of Ballinamore, county Leitrim, has made repeated complaints that the police in the Southern Police Station, Glasgow, allowed his son's property to be carried off by strangers; and whether he will order a full inquiry and direct that steps be taken to restore to Thomas Gilheany the value of his son's property which he lost through the action of the police?

***The LORD ADVOCATE**: I have nothing to add to the answer given to the hon. Member on the 27th February by my predecessor after full inquiry, when he was informed that the police were never in charge of the property referred to and consequently cannot be asked to restore the value.

## BURMAH RAILWAY EXTENSION.

**Mr. SOUTTAR**: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, with regard to the proposals recently pressed on the Marquess of Salisbury by an influential deputation of the Chambers of Commerce for railway extension on the east and north-east of Burmah, in what direction and how near to the frontiers of south-west China it is desired to project such railway system; and, whether the concessions recently granted to the Rothschild Railway Syndicate include powers to construct these proposed lines on the frontiers of Eastern Burmah.

**Lord GEORGE HAMILTON**: A line of railway is now in course of construction, starting from the Burmese Railway system, near Mandalay, and terminating near the western borders of China, at a point called Kunlon Ferry on the Salween River. The agreement with the new Burmah Railway Company gives powers to the Government of India to call upon the Company under specified conditions to construct such extensions of the Burmese Railway system within the frontiers of Burmah as the Government may think desirable.

## CORK ASSIZES (CHARGE OF PERJURY).

**Mr. T. M. HEALY**: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland if the Government have come to any, and what, decision as to the conduct of Head Constable Rowe, Queenstown, in regard to the charge of perjury tried at the Cork Assizes against a woman named Barnett; whether he is aware that Judge Holmes, in his charge to the jury, said that the idea of sending the children to an industrial school could not have originated with her, for a woman like that would know nothing about an industrial school. They were sent out by the head constable to beg, so that they could be admitted to an industrial school. The whole proceeding, from first to last, was really a sham, in order to have a child who ought not to be sent to an industrial school sent there. He was disposed to think the question of religion was a material question in the inquiry, for it was the duty of the magistrates to avoid sending a Roman Catholic child to a Protestant or a Protestant to a Roman Catholic school; whether he is further aware that at the trial the Crown Prosecutor, Mr. Ronan, read a statement made by the prisoner when she was tried at the petty sessions, to the effect that she was put up by Canon Harley and his daughter in Cork and Canon Daunt in Queenstown to say and do everything she did say and do; why these reverend gentlemen were not called as witnesses by the Crown; and, do the Government intend to take further action?

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR**: As regards the first paragraph, an official reprimand has been conveyed to the Head Constable, and he has also been deprived of the opportunity of competing at the forthcoming examination of Head Constables for promotion to the rank of District Inspector. If the hon. and learned Gentleman desires an answer in detail to the statements in the remainder of the Question, I will ask him to postpone his inquiries until Monday next, as the papers are over in Dublin; but I may state that I have carefully considered the case, and that, on the facts as already brought under my notice, it is not the intention of the Crown to take further action.

## ST. CROSS HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER.

Mr. W. H. MYERS (Winchester): I beg to ask the hon. Member for the Thirsk Division, as representing the Charity Commission, whether the trustees of St. Cross Hospital, Winchester, have under their scheme of management power to erect new buildings, and to make important alterations in the existing buildings, without the consent of the Charity Commissioners; and whether the Charity Commissioners have the power to interfere with the action of the trustees if damage is being done to the ancient buildings of the hospital?

Mr. GRANT LAWSON: The trustees have power, under the scheme of May 17th 1881, to expend out of the unappropriated surplus income of the charity such sums as shall be deemed by the Charity Commissioners sufficient, in adding to or otherwise improving the present hospital buildings, so as to provide additional rooms for the residence of brethren; but only with the previous sanction of the Commissioners, expressed in an order under their official seal. No such additions or improvements can be made except in accordance with plans and specifications which shall have been approved by the Commissioners acting upon the advice of the architect.

## BUNDORAN LOAN FUND.

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for South Donegal (Mr. J. Swift MacNeill), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether it has been brought under his notice that the Bundoran Loan Fund case, decided some short time ago by County Court Judge Webb against the Loan Fund Society, was reheard on appeal by the Right Honourable Justice Madden at Lifford Assizes for county Donegal a few days ago; and that Mr. Justice Madden varied the decision of Judge Webb by dismissing the case on the merits, and refused to state a case on the application of counsel for the society; (2) what compensation it is proposed to make M'Geever and Gallagher, who were the defendants in actions at Petty Sessions, Quarter Sessions, and Assizes, brought by the Bundoran Loan Fund Trustees; (3) what remedy does he propose to apply to the proceedings of the Loan Fund Offices; and (4) whether he has considered the advisability of granting a full and searching Inquiry into the working of the Loan Fund system?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: My attention has been directed to a report of the proceedings referred to in the first paragraph. I am not aware that the defendants in these proceedings, who were in the position of ordinary litigants, have any claim to compensation. They have certainly no such claim on the Crown. I hope to be able to make a statement shortly respecting the matter alluded to in the last two paragraphs.

## DRUNKENNESS (CARNLOUGH, COUNTY ANTRIM).

Mr. R. T. O'NEILL (Antrim, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of prosecutions brought by the police for drunkenness and bad conduct in the village of Carnlough, county Antrim, since the police at Glenarm have been supplied with bicycles to patrol the district?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The system of cycle patrolling at Carnlough, which is less than three miles from Glenarm, was only established on the 10th instant, and is in addition to the ordinary system of foot patrols. No prosecutions have been instituted by the police since that date, as the Petty Sessions are only held on the first Monday in each month, but a case of assault will be brought before the magistrates at the Petty Sessions to be held on Monday next.

## CHARGE OF MURDER (OMAGH).

Mr. D. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Attorney-General for Ireland if he is aware that two brothers named Maguire, at present in gaol on a charge of alleged murder, were marched handcuffed to each other through the public streets of Omagh, from the gaol to the courthouse, on the 18th July instant, it being market day. By whose authority was the practice in such cases of conveying prisoners in a van departed from; and, will he take care that in future no such proceeding as this shall recur?

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry, S.): On the 23rd instant I stated in reply to a similar question addressed to me by the hon. Member for Mid Tyrone that there was no foundation whatever for the allegation that the prisoners referred to were marched through the streets to the jail or courthouse on the occasion mentioned, but that they were conveyed in the prison van in accordance with the invariable practice.

## CRETAN CONVENTION AT CANEA.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office has yet received any official Dispatches concerning the opening proceedings of the Cretan Convention at Canea on the 13th inst., the alleged part taken by the Military Governor, Abdullah Pasha, in the official proceedings, contrary to usage, and the alleged recall of Abdullah Pasha, as Military Governor of the Island; and, if so, will the information be communicated to the House?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. GEORGE CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): The answer to the hon. Member's question is in the negative.

## HIGH SHERIFFS.

MR. T. W. LEGH (Lancashire, Newton): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the statement of the Lord Chancellor on 11th June, he will institute an Inquiry into the moneys and fees received by or on behalf of High Sheriffs of counties in pursuance of their office, with the object of redressing the admitted grievance of requiring individuals to bear part of the cost of the administration of justice and of the execution of the law.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The profits of Under-Sheriffs formed the subject of inquiry by the House of Lords Committee of 1893 and 1894, and figures bearing on the question will be found in the report and evidence by that Committee. It is very doubtful whether anything further could be ascertained by Government, which has no power to compel Under-Sheriffs to disclose their profits.

## DRUMBRACKIN POST OFFICE, CARRICKMACROSS.

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if he has received a numerously signed memorial requesting that James Larkin, Drumbrackin, Carrickmacross, should be appointed postmaster for the district; and, whether he will grant the prayer of the memorialists?

*THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): A memorial asking for the establishment of a sub-office at Drumbrackin, Carrickmacross, has been received by the Postmaster-General and is under inquiry. The result shall be communicated to the hon. Member.

## GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

MR. GERALD LODER (Brighton): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he has considered the possibility of taking advantage of the contemplated alterations in Parliament Street, in order to construct a subway from some point in the vicinity of Downing Street to Palace Yard, for the convenience of Ministers, officials, and messengers?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The subject of the construction of a subway from Parliament Street into New Palace Yard has been brought forward before the Committee on the Appropriation of Sites for Government Offices, but has been deferred by them for further consideration until next Session.

## LONDON AND DUBLIN NIGHT MAIL SERVICE.

MR. J. L. CAREW (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General (1) whether he will arrange that the whole time to be saved by the acceleration of the night mail service between London and Dublin will be devoted to increasing the interval in Ireland between the arrival and departure of the mails, and thereby afford two hours additional time for correspondence, to the great advantage of many important towns and cities in Ireland; and (2) whether he will also arrange that the day mail be accelerated to the same extent as the night mail?

*MR. HANBURY: No, Sir. It is not practicable to do what the hon. Member suggests in the first paragraph of his question. The night mail from Euston to Holyhead cannot leave Chester before the train bringing the Scotch mail from Warrington arrives at that town, and similarly the up Irish mail must reach Chester in time to secure a connection with the down Scotch express at Warrington. If the hon. Member's suggestion were carried out, neither of these results, both of which are of the greatest importance both to Scotland and Ireland could be secured. The day mail packets will be accelerated by half an hour, but it would not be justifiable to increase the heavy expense which would be involved in the acceleration of the day mail trains.

## POST OFFICE SORTERS.

MR. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can arrange in competitive examinations for sorterships in the London Post Office that Dublin and Edinburgh should be made centres for examination; and, whether it is the usage in all other Civil Service examinations that Dublin and Edinburgh are made centres?

*MR. HANBURY: The arrangements as to centres for examination in case of open competitions rest with the Civil Service Commissioners, and it is understood to be the practice of the Commissioners to make Dublin and Edinburgh centres on all occasions when there are enough candidates at those places to justify the expense. There seems no reason for exceptional arrangements in the case of open competitions for sorterships.

## COMMISSION OF IRISH LIGHTS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the Act and the section thereof under which the payment of damages and costs incurred by the Irish Board of Lights in Harrisson's case was authorised; and whether he can state the amount of such payment?

MR. RITCHIE: The payment of damages and costs by the Commissioners of Irish Lights in Harrisson's case was authorised under Sections 658, 660 and 677 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894. As already stated in my previous replies, the Commissioners paid Harrisson £130 damages and costs, and their own costs amounted to £289 2s. 2d.

## COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME TAX.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Board of Inland Revenue will ascertain whether the Commissioners of Land Tax are periodically summoned for the election of Commissioners of Income Tax; whether he is aware that in some districts the Commissioners of Income Tax are practically a self-elected body; and, whether the Board of Inland Revenue will take the necessary steps to cause the Commissioners of Land Tax to be regularly summoned at reasonable intervals for the purpose of filling up vacancies in the office of Commissioner of Income Tax?

*MR. HANBURY: The Commissioners of Land Tax are not summoned periodically for the election of Commissioners of Income Tax. They are summoned whenever the Board of Inland Revenue are requested by the Income Tax Commissioners to convene a meeting for the purpose of electing Income Tax Commissioners by reason of the list of these Commissioners becoming exhausted or deficient. If the Board of Inland Revenue were in any case satisfied that the list was insufficient, they would take action to have the list filled up.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS, asked whether it was not the case that in many parts of the country the Land Tax Commissioners were not summoned for a great number of years, and that as a matter of fact the Income Tax Commissioners were a self-elected body, and whether in these circumstances he would take the necessary steps to cause the Land Tax Commissioners to be summoned?

*Mr. HANBURY: The Income Tax Commissioners are not a self-elected body. Certain Income Tax Commissioners are appointed by the Land Tax Commissioners for the County or Hundred. There is also a reserve list of Income Tax Commissioners who do not serve until there are vacancies in the original list; and whenever it is necessary to fill up the reserve list, then the Inland Revenue must summon a meeting of the Land Tax Commissioners to fill up the vacancy.

## TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he will make the necessary arrangements by the commencement of next Session for extending the telegraph now in operation between the House and the Smoking Rooms to the Dining Room and Library of the House.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: There are, I am informed, no funds to make the extension this year; but the question will be considered with regard to next year's estimate.

## CLAIM BY CHECKWEIGHMAN (WAKEFIELD).

Mr. B. PICKARD, (York, W.R., Normanton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a checkweigh case held before his Honour Judge Greenhow, at the Wakefield Courthouse, 21st July 1896, *re* George Ford, checkweighman, of Sharlestone Colliery, who sued James Skitt and John Robinson for 2s. 8d. each for arrears of wages, and, whether his Honour's rulings and verdict in this case are in accordance with the clauses of the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, dealing with checkweighmen's wages, when he decided that the checkweighman was not entitled to collect money from the men to cover the costs of weigh sheets, whereon to record the men's weight, costs incidental to collecting the money from the workmen in the pit yard, or any other costs incidental to the weighing of the coal on behalf of the workmen.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: My attention had not previously been called to this case. I have no power to review the decision of a Judge on a point of law, and in the present case, of which the hon. Member has been good enough to send me a report, I can see no reason to doubt that the Judge's decision was in accordance with the Act, and that, while a checkweighman's wages are recoverable under the Act, the other items mentioned are recoverable only under an agreement.

## RHODESIA (FOOD SUPPLIES.)

Sir HENRY HAVELOCK-ALLAN, (Durham, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can inform the House what steps are being taken to obtain and organise a transport train which is necessary to enable food to be collected at Mafeking, and thus allow the reinforcements by Imperial troops and others of the small forces now at the disposal of Sir Frederick Carrington for the operations against the rebels in the Matoppo Hills, which operations appear likely to be seriously prolonged if the available transport cannot be shortly assembled to feed the troops engaged?

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) I can only repeat that the British South Africa Company and the Imperial military authorities are straining every nerve to increase the foodstuffs in the country. Even the rinderpest regulations in the protectorate will be relaxed if it can be done with safety in order to facilitate the sending forward of food supplies. I have under consideration the feasibility of employing camels.

## TRANSVAAL RAID.

Mr. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what action the War Office are taking with regard to the Officers of Her Majesty's Army (other than those who have been tried with Dr. Jameson) who were concerned in the late raid in the Transvaal?

Mr. THOMAS BAYLEY: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, if, when he makes his promised statement at the conclusion of the Jameson trial, he will include a statement as to the position of the Officers of Her Majesty's Army who were concerned in the late raid into the Transvaal; or if the Under Secretary of State for War will afterwards make a statement dealing with this subject?

*The UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): I regret I am yet unable to reply to the question of the hon Member. The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. BAYLEY: Can the hon. Gentleman say when he will be in a position to reply?

*Mr. BRODRICK: I will give the hon. Gentleman notice when I am in a position to answer the question.

## ROYAL COMMISSION ON FINANCIAL RELATIONS.

Mr. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state if the final Report of the Royal Commission to inquire into the Financial Relations between Great Britain and Ireland will be issued for the information of the Members of the House and of the public before the close of the present Session?

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: This is not a matter over which I have any control, but I have ascertained from the office of the Royal Commission that it is probable that some copies of this Report may be presented to the House before the end of the Session.

## CONTINENTAL MAIL.

Mr. D. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain why, although letters for the Continent posted in London before 6 p.m. leave Cannon Street by the Continental mail train at 8.5 p.m., letters posted before 9 a.m. do not leave by the 11.5 a.m Continental train.

*Mr. HANBURY: The hon. Membe appears to have been misinformed Letters for dispatch by the 11.5 a.m Continental train can be posted at th General Post Office by 9.15 a.m. or u to 9.30 a.m. with a late fee. The circumstances do not, however, admit o later posting than at present at th District Offices.

## LIMERICK MAILS.

Mr. MICHAEL AUSTIN (Limerick W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to th Treasury, as representing the Postmaste General, if he has received a Resolution from the Limerick Chamber of Commerce directing attention to the serious loss t the trade of the city in consequence o the frequent late arrival of the morning mails, and requesting the Postmaster General to make arrangements for th running of a special train from Limerick Junction to Limerick when the morning mail train is late; and, whether the postal authorities can see their way t remedying the grievances complained of

*Mr. HANBURY: The Postmaster General has received a copy of the Resolution referred to. The contract for the mail service on the Waterford, Limerick and Western Railway is now under revision, and the question of the connection between the mail trains at Limerick Junction will be considered in the negotiations with the Company for a new contract.

## MISSION SCHOOLS, ZULULAND.

Mr. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can explain why, though grants are made to the Anglican, Swedish, and Norwegian mission schools in Zululand, no grant is made to the Roman Catholic mission schools conducted by the Oblate Order, which are doing equally good work?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information as to the educational work of the Roman Catholics in Zululand, but I will call for a Report on the subject. I gather that they have only recently established themselves in that country.

### MAYBRICK (MRS.).

**Dr. CLARK** (Caithness): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will lay upon the Table the Letter or Statement of the Lord Chief Justice regarding Mrs. Maybrick's case?

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: No, Sir; it is unusual, and, in my opinion, undesirable, to lay on the Table of the House representations received by me on behalf of a convict, and I see no reason for departing from the practice in the present case.

**Dr. CLARK** asked whether the representation was made by the Lord Chief Justice in his capacity as a Judge or in his private capacity?

**Mr. LOUGH** asked whether any representation had been made lately, and, if so, what was the date of such representation?

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: No representation, so far as I am aware, has been made within the last few months. A great many representations were made to me in the course of the autumn, including the representation from the Lord Chief Justice, not, I need hardly say, in his capacity as Lord Chief Justice, but as one who was concerned in the trial, and who has been intimately connected with the case.

### IRISH TREASON-FELONY PRISONERS.

**Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR** (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury how soon he expects to be in a position to say whether the Irish treason-felony prisoners will be released by the clemency of the Crown, or before the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign?

**Mr. MICHAEL DAVITT** (Mayo, S.): Before the right hon. Gentleman replies to that Question, I desire to ask him whether it is not the invariable custom among the civilised nations to exercise clemency on happy occasions of this kind towards political offenders?

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY** (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): I do not know how far it is the practice among European nations to celebrate happy events in the manner suggested by the hon. Gentleman. But whilst not desiring to commit myself to any judgment as to whether it is a wise course or the reverse, I do not think the time has arrived for the consideration of the matter.

**Mr. DAVITT**: Will the right hon. Gentleman say when the time will arrive for its consideration?

[No reply was given.]

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SATURDAY SITTING).

*Sir CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when the Military Manœuvres Bill will be gone on with?

**Sir HENRY FOWLER** (Wolverhampton) also asked what business would be taken on Saturday, and when Supply would again be taken?

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY**: The business I propose to take to-morrow is the Uganda Bill, Third Reading; Locomotives on Highways Bill, Report as amended; the Telegraph Money Bill, Committee; Public Works Loans Bill, Committee; Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill, Report; the Stannaries Bill, Committee; and the Bishopric of Bristol Bill. These Measures, as everyone knows who has followed them, are, I believe, likely to be disposed of in a very brief space of time; and if we, as I hope, are so fortunate as to finish them early, there are a few controversial minor Bills with which I think the House will desire to make progress also. I shall not ask the House to sit to any unreasonable time to-morrow, but the Bills I have mentioned we must get before we rise. With regard to the business next week, the first business will be the Scotch Rating Bill, and until I know what progress will be made with that Measure I cannot give the day on which we will take again Supply. With regard to the Military Manœuvres Bill, it was one of those Measures which, as I told the House, I confidently expected would pass in the course of the present Session. But since I made that statement it has come to my knowledge that the opposition to the Measure is of a much more formidable character than I had reason to believe, and I am afraid the discussions in Committee would take a longer time than the House can afford at the present period of the Session. Under those circumstances, I do not think it would be desirable to proceed with the

Measure this year. I make that announcement with less regret, as it would not be possible to have manœuvres this year even if the Bill were passed before the end of the Session. I will consult with my hon. Friend who is in charge of the Bill, and who has shown a conciliatory disposition in dealing with the various suggestions made to him—[" Hear, hear ! "]—to see what we can do next Session to promote an object which is on both sides regarded as desirable. [" Hear, hear ! "]

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) asked the right hon. Gentleman whether, considering the Amendments to the Scotch Rating Bill which the Government had placed on the Paper, and the desirability of Scotch opinion being consulted in regard to those Amendments, he really proposed to go on with the Bill this Session?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: The operation of the Amendments put down by the Government will be to bring the Bill more into harmony with the views of the late Lord Advocate, and I see no reason for departing from our determination to proceed with the Bill. [" Hear, hear ! "]

MR. J. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) asked what Estimates would be put down the day Supply would be next taken?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: I think I have already said the Army Votes and the Scotch Votes will be taken next.

## CORRUPT COMMISSION.

MR. WALTER HAZELL (Leicester): I beg to ask the Attorney General whether his attention has been called to the report of the trial of "Oetzmann *v.* Long," on 6th July, in the High Court, before the Lord Chief Justice, in which the case turned upon the payment by the defendants of corrupt commissions to a confidential servant of the plaintiff; whether he has read the Lord Chief Justice's summing up as to these corrupt bargains, in which he states, that if the evil continued to exist as it had existed in the past, the Legislature must take measures to put an end to it; and that no case of such importance had come before the Court during that sitting; whether he is aware that this is at least the third case of the kind within a few months in which the Lord Chief Justic has given judgment in equally emphati terms, and that this system of commercial bribery or secret commissions which is thus condemned is widespread; an whether, having regard to these importan judgments of the Lord Chief Justice an to the gravity of the whole question, h will institute an inquiry under th authority of Parliament in order to ascertain the extent and the working of th evil, with a view to remedial legislation

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Si RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): M attention has been called to the language of the Lord Chief Justice in th case of "Oetzmann *v.* Long." Whil entirely agreeing with his Lordship' remarks as to the mischief occasioned b the practice of payment of secret commissions, the existing law is, in m opinion, sufficiently strong to prevent and, if necessary, to punish any illega practices in connection therewith. I am not satisfied that any inquiry is necessary or any legislation desirable.

## EAST LONDON WATER SUPPLY.

MR. H. SAMUEL Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) asked the President of the Local Government Board whether any arrangement had been come to between the New River Water Company and the East London Water Company in regard to the water supply of East London.

MR. CHAPLIN: Yes, Sir. I am glad to say that within half an hour of answering a question on that point in the negative, yesterday, I received a telegram informing me that the two companies had come to an arrangement by which the New River Company would be able to provide the East London Company with an additional supply of three million gallons daily. [*Cheers.*] I may also state what I think will be generally satisfactory to the House, that the East London Company have readily agreed to the suggestion which I made to them some few days ago. The directors, I understand, met yesterday, and this morning I received a communication from General Scott, the water examiner to the Board, to the following effect:—"The secretary has informed me that the directors are most anxious to do all in their power to alleviate any distress occasioned by the present drought, and that the company will undertake to defray to any reasonable extent the cost of distributing receptacles for storing water, to the poorest class of householders, who do not possess vessels suited to the purpose. The secretary will communicate at once with the local authorities with a view to giving effect to their intention." (Hear, hear.)

### PRISON TREATMENT OF DR. JAMESON AND HIS COLLEAGUES.

MR. ERNEST FLOWER: I desire to ask the Home Secretary a Question of which I have given him private notice. It is if he has decided whether Dr. Jameson and his colleagues are to be treated as first-class misdemeanants?

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Yes, Sir. After considering all the circumstances I have thought it my duty to advise the clemency of the Crown—[*cheers*]—and the sentence is commuted into one involving the treatment of the prisoners as first-class misdemeanants. [*Renewed cheers.*]

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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### SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

[TWENTIETH ALLOTTED DAY.]

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS II.

Motion made and Question proposed:—

"That a sum not exceeding £78,610, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices."

MR. THOMAS LOUGH (Islington, W.) moved to reduce the Vote by £500, in respect of the salary of the Secretary of State, in order to call attention to the neglect of the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Cabs. The late Home Secretary received a deputation in October 1893, when the grievances of the men were presented to him. In May 1894, there was a discussion in Committee of Supply, and the late Home Secretary, as a result of it, appointed a Departmental Committee, with one or two members from outside, to consider the whole of the grievances and make recommendations. The Committee reported in January 1895, after meeting some 24 times. After that there ought to have been no further need to discuss the question; all that had to be done was to carry out the recommendations of the Committee. But, after an interval of 18 months, practically nothing had been done. The cabmen had 10 substantial grievances, and only one of them had yet been satisfactorily disposed of, though two or three others had been slightly touched by the Home Office. The first grievance was as to the inspection of cabs. The Committee reported in favour of a strict system of inspection, by inspectors (one for each police district) acting under a chief inspector; and they recommended that the inspectors should not be policemen, but men with technical knowledge. Except for the appointment of a few policemen as inspectors, nothing had been done. He had just read a Report from the representatives of the men, which declared that this police inspection of cabs was perfunctory and absurd. The second recommendation which had been dealt with was that the police should be more gentle in their treatment of cabmen, that the magistrates should listen to their complaints, and that a Bill should be introduced to protect the drivers from bilking. So well had this recommendation been carried out that in the first three months of the present year there had been only 84 summonses, of which 57 had been dismissed. The third grievance related to the privilege system at the railway stations. The Committee were not unanimous on this point, but the great majority reported in favour of the abolition of privilege. The cab question would never be settled until the privilege system was abolished. The railway companies contended that without the system they would get a bad class of drivers into the stations. But that would be obviated if the Home Secretary carried out the recommendations of the Committee, and gave licences only to men of good character. It was very hard that the men who were allowed to take passengers to the stations might not take them away. The men had presented a statement of their complaint to the Home Secretary, but he had done nothing with it. He could quote the late Home Secretary as a reluctant convert to the abolition of the privilege system. In the recent Report from the men's representatives, to which he had referred, they declared that they were determined to deal with this privilege system by other than conciliatory methods, unless the Home Office did something. The fourth recommendation of the Committee was as to the extension of the cab radius. The present radius was fixed in 1855, and all the vestries and the London County Council were in favour of its extension. Yet the right hon. Gentleman had taken no steps to extend the radius. The fifth recommendation was that there should be a careful registration and inspection of the cab-yards in the Metropolis; and the sixth, that the cab-shelters should be taken over by some public authority and made more useful to the men. Neither of these recommendations had been carried out. The seventh dealt with the prevention of sub-letting. Under that clause they might get rid of the railway privilege system—it was, after all, only a system of sub-letting — because the right hon. Gentleman might refuse to license any cab that was sub-let under this privilege system. The eighth recommendation was that there should be a greater number of small standings in the streets; and the ninth was in favour of the proprietors, that they should be freed from the responsibility they now labour under with regard to producing a driver if he committed any offence when dealing with luggage. Nothing had been done in these directions. The last recommendation was that there should be a more strict account kept of the fines levied from cabmen, and that something should be done to improve the position of the cabmen, and that the tax itself should be reduced. He submitted that he had proved that of all the recommendations only one had been satisfactorily dealt with, all the others had been totally neglected, and of this the men justly complained. The rea fault lay in this—that a municipal duty was discharged by the Home Office and the police, who were utterly unable and incompetent to do it. The question would never be settled until the contro of the cab service of the Metropolis wa handed over to the London County Council.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Si MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) said that if the House really knew all that had been done in carrying out the recommendations of the Departmental Committee, they would not be disposed altogether to agree with the hon. Gentleman, who had found very unnecessary fault with the proceedings of the Home Office. He was the last to deny to the Departmental Committee full credit for their labours in the matter, not only in behalf of the cab service of the Metropolis, but the Home Office itself, which, as the hon. Gentleman said, was most unfortunately responsible for this service—["Hear, hear!"]—though he did not agree with him. He had given the hon. Gentleman from time to time full information on what he had done in consequence of the recommendations of the Committee. In no respect had he gone back from any of the intentions expressed by his right hon. predecessor in office, and, as regarded the general recommendations of the Committee, he should think there never was a Committee which had succeeded in enforcing so many of their regulations upon a Department. Generally speaking, there were about 17 recommendations, and he had up to the present carried out seven; one required legislation, and a Bill had this Session been carried through Parliament by the Under Secretary. He was confident that the cabmen, if they considered fairly and candidly what had been done would think that the Department had loyally endeavoured to carry out, both in spirit and in letter, the recommendations of the Committee. With reference to inspection, there was now one inspector to about 1,000 cabs, and in his opinion the inspection was now adequate. The result was that there had been a distinct gain to the character of the cabs of London by the withdrawal of the worst kind of cabs. As to the privilege system, he believed the worst feature about it was the name. ["Hear, hear!"] He was, however, aware of the sentiment which prevailed among cabmen against the system. He found, when he succeeded to office, that his right hon. Friend opposite had, in answer to a question by the hon. Gentleman, agreed to communicate with the railway companies and ask them to agree to a conference on the subject. The advantage of the privilege cab system did not lie in any pecuniary benefit derived by the railway companies, or in any privilege to the drivers; it lay rather in the convenience to the public. ["Hear, hear!"] The railway companies maintained that it was only by the system of having in hand a certain number of cabs whose presence they could always rely upon in circumstances where there was likely to be a heavy drain, such as a race meeting, that the requirements of the public could be met. No one holding his position, or who was in any degree responsible for regulating the cab trade of the Metropolis, could do other than put in the forefront of considerations the convenience of the public, so long as it was consonant with the liberties and rights of the cabdrivers. That was the objection taken by the railway companies. It was not a question of money; from first to last it had been represented to him as purely a matter of public convenience. A conference with the railway companies having been agreed to by his predecessor, he summoned the representatives of the railway companies in London to come and talk over the subject with him. He had the assistance of two members of the Departmental Committee, and he put it to the companies whether any proposals could be submitted by them on the subject. But he failed to arrive at any solution of the question, it being held that the convenience of the public was best met by the present system. Then followed, at a later period, and after correspondence, certain proposals, the moderation of which he recognised. He was not going to commit himself by saying whether or not the companies ought to accept them, but he felt that they afforded a basis on which an arrangement could be made. He then inquired whether the companies could accept the proposals or submit counter proposals in order to arrive at a compromise. At present he had received but one answer, and he regretted to say it was not a very favourable one. He could assure the Committee that he was trying his best to arrive at a solution of the question by an amicable arrangement with the railway companies. The points to be borne in mind were, the general convenience of the public, and the fact that the stations of the companies were private property. If station cabs were abolished, then it would be open to the railway companies to establish their own cabs, as they had established their own private omnibuses.

MR. LOUGH said that if the companies provided their own cabs the only demand that would be made would be that they should be licensed on the same terms as the other cabs throughout the Metropolis.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that was another question altogether. The hon. Member said that nothing had been done about the radius. He believed that the cab trade was divided on the subject, but he understood that the vestries were in favour of the extension. This, however, was a matter of detail which he was ready to consider. As to the register, that was kept by every district inspector. Stables were regularly visited, and the date of the inspection was shown in the register. The general result was that the attention of the local authorities had been called to about 50 insanitary premises, and the evils connected with them had been remedied. He agreed that the grievance connected with sub-letting ought to be met. A regulation had been drafted providing, as a condition of the licence, that a cab should not be sub-let, and a breach of it was punishable by suspension or revocation of the licence. If the County Council or the vestries were to signify their willingness to take over the shelters, he did not think that any objection on the part of the Home Office would be made to those shelters becoming public property. Then, of course, the ratepayers would pay for them.

MR. LOUGH: Would you give a public grant?

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Certainly not. The shelters were supported by public contributions, which had been cheerfully given. He hoped that no unpleasant measures would be resorted to on the part of the cabmen, because one difficult point in connection with the settlement of the cab dispute had not yet been disposed of. He assured the Committee that he had done his best to try to bring the parties together, and, short of legislation, he could not do more. But he was not without hopes that the sentimental grievance complained of might be met, and if he found that anything could be done to help he would cheerfully give his assistance. The hon. Member, however, was wrong when he said that a very small proportion of the recommendations of the Committee had been adopted. He could, if time allowed, show in detail that there was scarcely one of them which had not received the most minute attention and fullest consideration.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) was grateful to the Home Secretary for what he had done in this matter, and particularly for the facility with which he had passed the Bilking Bill. He regretted, however, that the right hon. Gentleman had not been prevailed upon to pass that Bill in its entirety. The Home Office deserved great praise for the strong way in which Sir Edward Bradford had prevailed on the police to treat the cabmen more civilly than formerly. A marked change of tone and attitude on the part of the London police had occurred in the last 18 months towards the cabmen, especially in the neighbourhood of the Strand, Drury Lane, Regent Street and Haymarket after 11 o'clock at night. He believed that that was mainly due to the action of the right hon. Gentleman and his predecessor, and of Sir E. Bradford. The police had been given to understand that cabmen were but human, and that in cold weather, when fares were perhaps scarce, they might be pardoned for sometimes giving sharp answers. The cabmen reciprocated this kindly treatment. He was glad to hear that the Home Secretary had condemned 50 cabyards, but there were at least 150 which he might condemn with advantage in the next few weeks. The keeping of a register of defective cabyards was a step in the right direction. On the subject of the radius, he quite recognised that cabmen could only be tolerated on the condition that they subordinated their own interest to the general convenience of the public. If it was for the benefit of the public that the radius should be extended it must be done, even against the wishes of the cabmen. He thought, however, that upon investigation it would be found that a majority of the cabmen were in favour of the change. He thanked the Home Secretary for having asumed the *rôle* of mediator between the cabmasters and the men, and for having tried to induce some of the railway companies to take steps in the direction of the abolition of the system of privilege. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to persist in his endeavours. If he did so, perhaps in a year the privilege system would have disappeared. Speaking roughly, about 1,500 cabs were privileged. Their number had been tremendously exaggerated. The system of privileged cabs was objectionable, and was often the cause of obstruction in the streets, for people who failed to get cabs in a station—Victoria, for instance—had to take their luggage on to the pavement outside, where non-privileged cabs could take up luggage. That was not convenient for the public, and it encouraged outside cabmen to collect round the station, with the result that the traffic was sometimes obstructed. If the Home Secretary were to make the railway companies adopt the system prevailing at Waterloo station, where a cabman was only charged a penny for admission, he would be doing good work. A system which was good enough for Sir Charles Scotter, one of our ablest railway managers, to adopt at Waterloo, was good enough for other railway companies. He trusted that by some means the Home Secretary would succeed in abolishing the system of privilege, which no one could defend.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) remarked that the recent administration of the Factory

Acts and Coal Mine Acts by the Home Office had been such as to give general satisfaction. In consequence, however, of the large number of our industries and the complexities of the laws relating to them, the need for more inspectors was increasing. An ever-augmenting number of Members of that House desired to see more money spent in useful objects like the promotion of the efficiency of the Home Office inspectorate. Where expenditure was necessary in order that legislation might have practical results, and might not remain a dead letter, it ought to be incurred. He recognised that to increase largely the present staff of very highly-paid Home Office inspectors would be a costly process, and he knew also that there was a very natural disinclination to intrust the great powers conferred by the factory and coal mining legislation of this country to less well-paid men who might not be fully competent to discharge the duties of the position. His view was that it might be possible to make a division of duties, and to have male and female assistant inspectors of a lower grade, who would be eligible for promotion to the higher posts if they did good work. Undoubtedly, if an absolute line was drawn, as it was in the Navy between officers and non-commissioned officers, there could be no hope of getting a first-class body of men. But if the best men and women felt that there was no bar to their rising to the higher ranks, then he believed it would be possible, without paying very large salaries all round, to get a very valuable body of assistants. There was a larger question he would like to touch upon, and that was whether a Government like the present, with a large majority, and especially a Conservative Government, would not do well to turn its attention to the limits of work between the various offices of State. The labour work of the Home Office did not clash, but it was mixed up, with the labour work of the Board of Trade. At the present time there were three Departments which applied to the same persons for information—namely, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, and the Home Office. They were continually asking for exactly the same statistical information. He would be the last in the world to say a word against the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, which had rendered very valuable services. If there had been any failure on their part it had been because they had not a sufficient staff, or means to bring their work up to date; but he must say that in the long run he thought the Government ought to face this problem of the partial amalgamation of offices. It was a matter which was, perhaps, too large for the consideration of the Committee. It could probably only be taken in hand by the Government, and therefore he wished to press it upon them.

MR. ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead) said he had known one or two cases of men who, having very considerable acquaintance with factory work, had been appointed to the inferior grade of inspectorship and put on to work in which their experience in factories was of no use. He certainly thought it would be well that such men should have an opportunity of rising to the higher grade, where their experience would be useful. There was a small grievance to which he would like to call the right hon. Gentleman's attention, connected with police pensions. It was a distinct grievance that an old soldier who joined the police was not entitled to reckon his service in the Army towards his pension, whereas a civil servant was. That seemed to him a great anomaly, for which there was no reason. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give the matter his sympathetic attention.

MR. H. H. ASQUITH (Fife, E.) said the question actually before the Committee was the Amendment moved by his hon. Friend behind him to reduce the salary of the Secretary of State. He need hardly say that that was not an Amendment for which he had much sympathy; but probably his hon. Friend felt that that was the only way of bringing the subject he had introduced before the House. He desired to acknowledge in the fullest way the complete continuity in the administration of the Home Office, and he earnestly trusted that the administrative work of the Home Office, particularly in that sphere of activity which concerned the health and industrial condition of the working population, might come to be regarded as entirely outside the sphere of Party controversy, and that, whatever developments that system might undergo, would not only be acquiesced in, but welcomed, and carried on in the same spirit in which they had been begun. He was quite certain that that had been the case during the last 12 months. With regard to the cab question, it was no doubt an anomalous thing that the time of the House of Commons should be taken up with the discussion of the purely local matter of the regulation of cab traffic of the Metropolis; but so long as this function was intrusted, not to the local authority, but to the Home Office, there was no alternative but to raise the question in this way. In the course of the dispute which took place two years ago, when he had an opportunity of making the close acquaintance of the cabmasters and men, on one occasion he said there was, at any rate, one point on which they were at one, and that was the privilege system; but he was not then asked to take notice of it, and he had never expressed any opinion as to whether the privilege system was or was not a desirable system. He did not think it was desirable that a Home Secretary should take up a definite line on that subject, because it would disqualify him for the position of mediator between the two parties. It appeared to him the wisest plan was to bring in the railway companies in conference with the Home Office, and to see whether some *via media* could not be adopted. He should certainly think that a system which was so condemned, and which was a source of friction amongst the vast majority of proprietors and cabmen, was a system into which it would be as well to introduce such modifications as would remove the repugnance it excited, and he could not help strongly expressing his hope that the Home Office might see their way to arrive at a new arrangement which would be equally convenient to the public and satisfactory to the men. With regard to the point raised by the right hon. Baronet near him, when he was at the Home Office he sought to give effect to the view that the staff of inspectors should be reinforced by men receiving smaller salaries and of a lower educational calibre, and he did create 25 assistants, for whom the Committee were now asked to vote nearly £3,000. He believed that the creation of that class of assistants had been, on the whole, a valuable and useful experiment. They had done a good deal of work which ordinary inspectors could hardly be called upon to do, and they had saved an enormous amount of time and trouble in clerical and other work. By the creation of this class Her Majesty's inspectors were relieved of a great many of their smaller duties, and secured more time for the discharge of their more important duties. He agreed that when a man entered the lower class he should not be debarred from promotion to the higher class if and when he showed himself fitted for the transfer. But it was impossible to hold out any promise or expectation to men who entered the service under these conditions that, as a matter of right, they should be entitled to promotion to a higher class.

MR. ELLIOTT LEES: Not if they passed another examination?

MR. ASQUITH said that was not what the men wanted. The applicants for the post of inspector were like the sands of the sea-shore, and the process followed was that a preliminary paper scrutiny took place. Some half-a-dozen or a dozen of those who appeared upon paper to be best fitted for the post were entered for a competitive examination, by which the matter was decided. The inspector's assistants were not debarred from entering for that competition. If they showed that they had the same qualifications, or qualifications derived from experience, as the gentlemen selected from outside they would have as good a chance—indeed, a better chance—of being sent in for examination. He was glad that the Home Secretary had added to the number of female inspectors. Under the Factory Act of last year a great many provisions, especially provisions dealing with laundries, had been introduced into the law which affected female labour, and he was quite satisfied from recent experience that these provisions could not be efficiently enforced except by female inspection. In reference to the inspection of mines, he wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he was in a position to say how the experiment of subjecting quarries to the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Mines had worked, and whether the number of accidents to life and limb in quarries had appreciably diminished.

Mr. LOUGH asked the Home Secretary to say that, in the interests of peace in the cab trade, he would do his best to get the privilege system abolished, Unless a more sympathetic statement were made on that point he would take the opinion of the Committee upon it.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that from the beginning he had never ceased to do his best to bring the two parties together, and to reduce the points of difference to the narrowest possible limit. All he could say was that he was willing to continue these efforts. The Home Office had done a great deal more in the matter than the hon. Member was willing to admit. He was not prepared to say that the control of cabs should be handed over to the County Council. He was responsible for the control of the Metropolitan Police, and until the House determined that that control should pass to the County Council it would not be proper for him to make any proposal which would depend upon such a change. He was very grateful for the way in which the services of the Home Office had been spoken. Very important legislation was passed by the late Home Secretary, especially with reference to factories. The carrying out of that legislation had not been an easy matter, and a great deal of credit was due to the late Chief Inspector of Factories, who had just retired, for the successful working of the new Act. Considering the many difficult points raised and the different interests affected, there had, on the whole, been very little friction. Most of the provisions of the Act had been adopted by those concerned, and from all accounts the Act was working satisfactorily. With reference to the appointment of additional assistant factory inspectors, the right hon. Gentleman the late Home Secretary had appointed 25 of a lower educational calibre, but who were more intimately acquainted with factory work than men of higher education. He thought that was a good experiment, and so far as he knew it was working satisfactorily. There was nothing to prevent those assistant inspectors from rising to the higher posts, if on competitive examinations they were found to possess the necessary educational and other qualifications. He had made this year two appointments in connection with the work under the particulars clause of the Factory Act. So far as he knew, the result of the examinations for assistant inspectors had resulted in adding very useful men to the public service. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman, his predecessor in office that the inclusion of a large number of laundries within the operations of the Factory Act had made it specially desirable to add to the staff of lady inspectors, and he was taking steps in that direction. Much good had been done in the interest of the female workers of the country by the appointment of those lady inspectors. Allusion had also been made to the relief which had been given to the inspectors in the matter of clerical work. The Home Office had opened 18 new offices in the various large centres and had made provision for the appointment of 40 new clerks. There was now a factory office in every district, and each district inspector had a clerk to relieve him of clerical work, which had enormously increased of late, and thereby give him more time for the work of inspection. He did not know whether those clerks would be continued, for he thought it possible that in some cases the Home Office would be able to utilise the services of the assistant inspectors in the discharge of the clerical work in addition to their work of inspection. The Factory Act was a difficult Act to work, but on the whole it was working satisfactorily, and he desired to thank the officers of the department for the way in which they had discharged their duties. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he had not provided for any additional assistant inspectors of mines. That was perfectly true. The view he took, and the view taken also by the inspectors, was that, despite the great addition to their work, they would rather wait until they saw how the Coal Mines Bill, now before the House, operated before they asked for extra assistance. Speaking generally, the new special rules affecting quarries were becoming more and more extended in operation with the general consent of both small and large owners. He believed that the operation of the rules tended to diminish the loss of life, but at present he could not give any figures on the subject. He thanked the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Fife for his kind expressions as to the manner in which he had tried to carry on the traditions of the Home Office in all work affecting factories. He had been asked whether arrangements could not be made to allow the previous service of old soldiers who entered the police to count for purposes of pension. That was a matter in which he could do nothing, as it depended on a Treasury regulation.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. EDWARD MORTON (Devonport) rose to call attention to the question of the release of the Irish prisoners now undergoing penal servitude for treason-felony. This question had previously been invariably raised from an Irish Nationalist standpoint, and the Motion for the release of the prisoners had been presented in a way which prevented him from supporting it, but it seemed to him, viewing the matter from a British standpoint, that there were certain considerations which ought to be taken into account. He need not say that he had no sympathy with those who represented these men as heroes, who had nothing to regret in the crime of which they had been convicted. He, therefore, had nothing to say against the refusal of the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary to accept a Motion for their release. But the heinousness of the crime of which these men had been convicted should not prevent the House from giving a fair consideration to the points advanced in their favour. It was urged, for instance, that they were the dupes of other men, and that they were receiving a more severe punishment than was given to the Walsall anarchists who, though convicted of the same offence, were only sentenced to 10 years' penal servitude. He was not considering the Walsall case; but there was another case exactly in point—that of the Italian anarchists, Farnara and Polti. That case only differed from that of the Irish dynamiters in being more heinous, for Farnara was a refugee, while the Irishmen at least believed themselves to be at war with this country. Yet Farnara was only sentenced to 20 years' penal servitude, which was actually equivalent to a sentence of 16 years. No Irish prisoner, therefore, ought to receive a heavier sentence than 20 years, and, therefore, none of them should remain in prison more than three years from the present time. The Home Secretary would have an opportunity of revising the sentences before the sixteen years had expired; but if he proposed to reduce the sentences, it would be in the interests of public policy to make the announcement as soon as possible. Polti only received a sentence of 10 years, because the judge said that his youth made it evident that he was the dupe of Farnara. There were four of the Irish prisoners who were entitled to the same consideration. One was 23, another 22, and a third 22 at the time of sentence, and a fourth, Deveney, was, according to the prison doctor's report, "undoubtedly of weak intellect." It was a crying shame that this last man should be longer detained, because it was obvious that he could only have been a dupe in such a complicated and dangerous conspiracy. Although he had not been able to vote in favour of the unconditional release of the Irish dynamiters, he should in future make no objection if the Home Secretary saw his way to releasing them all immediately. No political capital would be made against the right hon. Gentleman if he released the prisoners. The whole of the Nationalist Party desired the release, and Ireland had this claim on our consideration, that it was more free from crime than any other country in the civilised world at the present moment. It was a most unfortunate thing for any Irishman to be able to point to the treatment of Irish prisoners under English law, as being more severe than that of other prisoners convicted of the same offences. He should not move the reduction standing in his name.

*Sir Matthew White Ridley.*

Mr. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, S.) said that the present Government were in a peculiarly strong position. They could do what their predecessors were afraid to do, and advise Her Majesty to exercise the clemency of the Crown. He went a great deal further than the hon. Member, because he held that the Home Secretary ought to look at this matter from the point of view of public policy. Hardly a week passed but he received reports of great meetings held in different centres in South Africa urging the Government in this respect to follow the generous example of the President of the South African Republic; so that this had become a question of great public interest throughout the civilised world. He contrasted the treatment meted out to the Irish prisoners with that accorded to Dr. Jameson and his fellow raiders. He did not condemn the action of the Home Secretary in the case of Dr. Jameson; on the contrary, he was glad he had resolved to treat them as first-class misdemeanants. A Conservative Member came to him last night and begged him to sign a petition to the Home Secretary to intervene and procure more decent treatment for these men. He signed the petition and was glad he did so, but at the same time he could not forget that when colleagues of Conservative Members to the number sometimes of half a dozen were stretched on the plank bed and exposed to every form of insult and degradation, no Conservative Member in those days thought it worth his while or duty to hawk round a petition asking for a mitigation of treatment for their own colleagues with whom they had been in the habit of conversing. He had passed through that ordeal on more than one occasion, though, thanks to medical interposition he never lay on the plank bed, as a number of his brother Members had. He carried no bitter memories with him, but he trusted the lesson would not be lost on the present First Lord of the Treasury, who would remember the days when he passionately pleaded that no mitigation of treatment should be allowed to the Irish Members. Time brought its revenges, and it was with a certain sense of gratification that at the request of a Conservative Member he signed the petition in the interests of Dr. Jameson. He signed it because he had always considered it a disgrace to any civilised Government to treat a political prisoner like a common felon. Thousands of men English Governments had put in prison in Ireland for political crimes, whom they had systematically, and of malice aforethought, subjected to the present forms of prison treatment, forms, some of which could have no object but to insult and degrade and madden men, just as educated and as accustomed to a good system of living as Dr. Jameson. Their motives were as unselfish, but that was not taken into consideration. He even recollected in those old days when Irish Members asked for a lightening of the insults and outrages committed on their comrades in prison, that habitually their demands were received with shouts of laughter from the Conservative Benches. He did not know what Dr. Jameson's politics were, but whether they were Conservative or not, he would never wish, even in regard to his bitterest enemy, to desire to see him for a political offence subjected to the insults and punishments the Irish prisoners had suffered.

Mr. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.) supported the Motion of his hon. Friend. He had listened with intense gratification to the statement made by the Home Secretary with reference to the change of treatment of Dr. Jameson and his friends. He believed that this act of clemency on the part of the Home Secretary would be hailed with universal satisfaction throughout Great Britain and Ireland to-morrow; and if the Home Secretary would only go a little further in the same direction, and exercise the prerogative of clemency towards the Irish prisoners, he was certain that neither he nor his colleagues would ever regret it. It was only fair to these men to bear in mind that notwithstanding the enormity of their sentences, no loss of life, not even the destruction of any property was brought home against them on trial. He did not wish to mitigate the offence for which they were put on their trial, but it was only right and fair that the Committee should bear in mind certain circumstances connected with them when taking into consideration the Motion of his hon. Friend. These men could not in any circumstances receive a fair trial in London. At the time, feeling was much excited against them, and when there was a strong prejudice in the public mind it was almost certain that the administration of the law would err on the side of severity rather than on the side of leniency. What had these men endured already? They had been in prison for 13 long years. Had their crimes been even greater than they were, those long, terrible, weary years of punishment ought to satisfy justice. He would go so far as to say that there was not to-day among the civilised nations of the world a Government which treated its political offenders as harshly and vindictively as England treated her political foes in the past. In the last few years he had come in contact with a number of Russian exiles who had undergone long years of imprisonment in Siberia, and he said that there was no comparison between the treatment meted out by Russia to her political foes in Siberia and the treatment to which our political prisoners were subjected. When he was released after nine years of imprisonment, four other prisoners accompanied him. Only two of the five were now alive. The punishment those men had endured had affected their health so much that they had passed into a premature grave. He appealed to the Home Secretary who was as humane a man as had ever exercised the prerogative of the Home Office, to release these men, not only because of the long time they had been in prison, but in view of the fact that the nation was about to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's reign.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said that the Committee would not expect him to follow the last two speakers in dealing with the act of clemency which he had announced to the House that day. He was glad to acknowledge, however, that what he had thought to be his duty appeared to meet with the general approval of the House. ["Hear, hear!"] He thought that the last speaker had exaggerated the evils of our prison system when compared with the punishment inflicted by the Russian Government in Siberia. So far as he had studied the inquiries instituted last year by the late Home Secretary, he could safely say that from year to year our prison system was becoming more and more humane, and however severe it might have been in old times, at least those who had the conduct of it now could not be accused of being wanting in the feelings of humanity. He was now asked to extend amnesty to the Irish treason-felony prisoners now in Portland. He was willing to admit that there was much in the conduct of these unfortunate men, much in their motives as far as they were known, which might be called political, and he was ready to admit that they were convicted under the Treason Felony Act. But he reminded hon. Members that their offences were grievous, that they employed bombs and dynamite, with the possibility and apparently with the intention of destroying innocent life. This was a very serious offence, and one which could not be described as merely a political one. He was not able to make any fresh statement that day. He had said on a former occasion that these prisoners ought to be treated in all respects as the Home Office was in the habit of treating other prisoners sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, and he had explained that it was the custom of the Home Office to review long sentences at stated periods, and when the proper time arrived there would be no departure from that custom in this case. He had paid constant attention to the question of the health of the prisoners, and he had been more liberal in allowing them to have interviews with their friends. He was glad that he had been able to be indulgent in this respect, especially as the privilege accorded had not been in any way abused. With regard to two or three of the prisoners he had just received a medical report which contained matter for serious consideration. In considering the question of the health of the prisoners, he was always ready to give them the benefit of the doubt, and it had been his inclination to release prisoners who were proved to be suffering grievously. He feared that he could add nothing to the statement which he had made on this subject at the beginning of the Session.

MR. MORTON hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider as soon as possible the cases of the men whom he (Mr. Morton) had classed with Polti, because they had actually suffered five years more penal servitude than Polti was sentenced to.

MR. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) thought that the time had arrived when all Party feeling might well be laid aside in considering this matter, and when the question should be looked at from the point of view of mercy only. Perhaps in the interests of the prisoners themselves, it would be well to leave the Debate where the right hon. Gentleman had left it, but there was one consideration which he felt he must urge. The Home Secretary had that very day wisely exercised his prerogative of clemency in the case of Dr. Jameson and his colleagues. That act would be popular with all parties in the country, no matter how severely they might condemn Dr. Jameson's action. But why would it be popular? Because people believed that Dr. Jameson was misguided, that his was not a purely criminal offence, and that a higher motive than a criminal motive governed his conduct. How could the Home Secretary draw a distinction between Dr. Jameson's case and the case of the Irish prisoners? The right hon. Gentleman said correctly that the Irish prisoners were engaged in an action which might probably have caused the death of innocent people. But, similarly, when Dr. Jameson started on his raid, the lives of innocent and helpless men were threatened. The men who were likely to be shot if they stood in the way of Dr. Jameson's force were as innocent as any of the men whose lives might have been sacrificed by the treason-felony prisoners. He urged the Home Secretary to continue to give consideration to the cases of these men impartially and mercifully; to exercise that mercy which his political predecessor probably felt that he could not exercise on account of his political relations with the Irish Nationalist Members. Could it be said that justice had not been satisfied? These misguided men who believed, wrongly, no doubt, that by their action they were serving their country, had now been in prison for many years. It could not be said that it would be dangerous to the State to release these men who were in a helpless and miserable state, and probably on the brink of the grave. If they were released, in all likelihood nothing more would be heard of them. He believed that public opinion would support the right hon. Gentleman if he determined to exercise clemency in favour of these prisoners.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) thought that the course of extending clemency to Dr. Jameson was the true and proper course to have taken, and that it would be unjustifiable on their part to draw needless inferences from what had taken place. But he believed that to be the true course to take with regard to all political prisoners. It was a source of satisfaction to them to hear from the Home Secretary that he was watching the health of the treason-felony prisoners, and maintaining a favourable disposition towards them.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) wished to ask a question about two pluralists whose salaries were borne upon this Vote. The first case was that of the accountant of the Home Office, whose maximum salary was, properly speaking, £600, but who had a special allowance with the result that he received £700. This gentleman, however, was also a pluralist, as he received £50 a year as auditor of the Patriotic Fund. He held that it was objectionable that a man should fill two offices and draw two salaries. The other case was that of an inspector of coal mines and collieries, who received £300 a year as professor of mining at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington. There was a General who received an extra £300 a year as professor of mining at the Royal College of Science at South Kensington. He could not be an inspector of coal mines and give lectures at the same time. That was a particularly obnoxious case of pluralism, and he trusted by the calling attention to these pluralists he would strengthen the hands of Ministers, and prevent the creation of any more.

MR. THOMAS ELLIS (Merionethshire) wished to call attention to two questions which he had put to the right hon. Gentleman some time ago. One had reference to the open quarries of North Wales, and the other to the Merionethshire mines. Departmental inquiries had been held into both these matters, and the right hon. Gentleman admitted that the recommendations of neither Committee had been fully carried out, and that in two of the largest quarries, the Penrhyn and the Dinorben quarries, the special rules suggested had not been put into operation. This was an extremely serious matter from two points of view. In the first place, the smaller quarries had adopted these special rules and were open to prosecution, but in the two most powerful quarries the rules had not been adopted, and the rules under which they worked were not enforceable at law. The matter was all the more serious because the manager of the Dinorben quarry was himself a member of the Departmental Committee, and not only assented to the rules, but actually assisted in drawing them up. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make an earnest effort to secure the adoption of these rules in those two great quarries. With regard to the Merionethshire mines, the House had constantly been engaged in passing Statutes relating to the safety of mines, and the result had been a great decrease in the number of fatal accidents in underground mines. Whereas in the decade from 1873 -1882, the number of accidents was 2·57 per thousand, by 1893 it had been brought down to 1·71. In South Wales, the most dangerous district, the numbers had decreased from 3·3 to 2·85. But in the Merionethshire mines the numbers were in 1875 4·38, in 1877 6·73, and in 1892 3·42 per thousand, or an average of 3·23, twice as high as in the coal mines. The Committee appointed to inquire into the condition of these mines 12 or 18 months ago, made 43 recommendations, of which nine required legislation, but 11 of which could be met by special rules. In Merionethshire at the present time there were a number of codes of special rules, and one recommendation of the Committee was that there should be one code for the whole of the county. In reply to a question the right hon. Gentleman had told him that the chief inspector was endeavouring to secure the adoption of special rules. Had he been asked by the Home Office to draw up special rules in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, and could the right hon. Gentleman say that he would take prompt steps to secure their adoption? The Metalliferous Mines Act was passed 21 years ago, and every inquiry under it in North Wales showed that it overlapped to a certain extent the Factories and Workshops Act, and that precautions adopted under the Coal Mines Act had not been adopted under the Metalliferous Mines Act. He desired to press very seriously and earnestly on the right hon. Gentleman the responsibility which lay on him to bring the administration and legislation on Metalliferous Mines to the same level as that adopted with reference to coal mines and factories and workshops.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY assured the hon. Gentleman that the Home Office had not been unmindful of the extreme importance of the subject he had brought to the attention of the Committee. The inspectors had been pushing the adoption of special rules with the greatest prudence and tact, and at the same time with energy, and he could assure the hon. Gentleman that the figures he gave a day or two ago of the number of quarries in which special rules had been adopted, did not represent by any means the amount of work done. The adoption of these special rules was by no means in a backward condition. With reference to the large quarries, he was in correspondence with the owner of the Penrhyn quarry, and in the event of his not being able to settle the matter with him, it would go to arbitration; and in a very short space of time he hoped the special rules would be adopted.

Mr. T. ELLIS asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could explain how it was that Mr. Vivian, the manager of the Dinorben quarry, being himself a Member of the Committee and joining in recommending these rules, did not put them in force in his own quarry.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he could not give any explanation of that. He could only say that he had not been able yet to get the rules adopted in that quarry, but in that case, also, if the rules were not accepted, the matter would be settled by arbitration. With reference to the Report of the Merionethshire Committee, considerable progress had also been made. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that the subject had not been lost sight of, but substantial and real progress in the line he desired was being made.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said it was the opinion, not only of the quarrymen but of the inspector, that as much protection as could possibly be afforded would be given by the adoption of these rules. The remedy was in the hands of the Home Office. Under the Factories Act they could compel Mr. Vivian to adopt these rules. It was for him to object, but surely he could not object to rules which he himself had recommended should be enforced in other quarries. He hoped the Home Office would take immediate action.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he could not compel the adoption of the rules except by having recourse to arbitration. As to the recommendation in regard to metalliferous mines, he could not promise legislation next Session; but it would be a great satisfaction to him if he found himself able to pass a Bill on the subject.

MR. PRITCHARD MORGAN (Merthyr Tydvil) called attention to the case of Mrs. Maybrick, and urged that she should now be released. The case had created enormous interest, and no less a personage than the Lord Chief Justice of England had recently expressed an exceedingly strong opinion upon it. Mrs. Maybrick was tried by a judge who, in his earlier days, exhibited very great knowledge of his profession. But at the time of this trial, as was known to every man, woman, and child in the country, that judge was not in a proper frame of mind to conduct such a case. The motives supplied by the Crown formed a very important feature in the opinion, not only of the judge but of the jury, in regard to the guilt of the prisoner. She was found guilty, and the only Court of appeal in this country, the Home Secretary, after reviewing the evidence, came to the conclusion that the jury were not justified in returning a verdict of murder. It was a well-known principle of English law that it was better that 999 guilty persons should be acquitted than that one innocent person should be convicted. In this case the only Court of Appeal found that the evidence did not justify the conviction, and he submitted that the time had arrived for reconsidering the matter. This woman had suffered enormously. If she did not commit this offence, and no less a personage than the Lord Chief Justice had suggested to the Home Office that the evidence was not conclusive, her sufferings must have been great indeed. If, on the other hand, she was guilty of the attempt to murder, he thought justice had been met by the long term of imprisonment she had undergone. He urged that the time had come when Mrs. Maybrick should have the benefit of the doubt which unquestionably existed by being released from imprisonment.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY assured the hon. Gentleman that he required no pressure from the Committee to lead him to reopen this much-vexed case; it had taken up a very large portion of his time during the autumn and winter. One of the first promises he made after his accession to office was, that he would devote his best abilities to consider any facts, old and new, that might be put before him. In consequence, a large volume of papers was submitted to him, and, on the suggestion of the Lord Chief Justice himself, he consulted the Lord Chancellor on the matter. He went most carefully into the case, and he came most emphatically to the opinion that it was not his duty to advise the Crown to exercise any further clemency.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) desired to mention a matter relating to the public records now deposited at the Home Office. Some of these records were extremely valuable, and a great amount of interest was taken in some of them at present by Welsh scholars. But considerable difficulty was thrown in the way of those who desired to consult them, and vexatious formalities had to be gone through. All he asked was that persons who desired to consult old documents, such as those dealing with the French invasion of Pembrokeshire in 1797, should be allowed to do so without having to go through the long and delaying formalities enjoined by the Home Office.

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.) called attention to the large number of explosions of petroleum oil lamps which occurred during the year, resulting in the loss of many lives and the destruction of much valuable property, and hoped the Home Secretary would give the matter his attention.

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said a Committee had been appointed to inquire into the explosions of lamps through the use of dangerous mineral oil, and had given a large amount of time to the investigation of the difficult subject. It had not yet finished its labours, but he hoped that it would result in suggesting means for the prevention of those deplorable accidents. With regard to the matter raised by the hon. Member for Flint Boroughs, papers down to 1772 were open to inspection in the Record Office without any permission being required. But in regard to Home Office papers from that year, which contained many confidential documents that could not be made public, the regulations were, first, that the permission of the Home Secretary should be obtained, and secondly, that any extracts made should be submitted for approval to the Home Secretary.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said the subject of the proposed inquiry into the papers relating to the French invasion of Pembrokeshire in 1797 was to clear up aspersions which had been cast on a Nonconformist body, that they were in a conspiracy with the French to aid them in invading England.

*Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY said he would inquire whether the restrictions could not be removed in the case of the papers referred to.

Mr. JOHN McLEOD (Sutherland) suggested the Home Office might follow the example of the Swiss Government in distributing warnings and cautions in connection with the careless use of petroleum in lamps.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum not exceeding £127,542, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Subordinate Departments."

Mr. J. H. DALZIEL desired to call attention to the importation of foreign prison-made goods. He did not complain of no legislation having been introduced dealing with the subject. He would confine himself to a few administrative questions. Towards the end of the last Parliament a long Debate on the subject had been raised by some of the present occupants of the Treasury Bench. Those Gentlemen complained that the then President of the Board of Trade had not exercised his power to prevent the importation of those foreign prison-made goods.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. C. T. Ritchie, Croydon): I would very much like to know what powers I could exercise in the matter?

Mr. DALZIEL said he was coming to that point, as the right hon. Gentleman would see if he gave him his attention. The complaint was made by the right hon. Gentleman's colleagues that his predecessor in office had not exercised his powers in the matter. A great deal of political capital was made by the Unionist Party at the last election on this question, and one of the most eloquent passages of the President of the Board of Trade's election address was devoted to the necessity of steps being taken. On many occasions questions had been asked as to how the Government were progressing, and last year the right hon. Gentleman said that he was going to pursue a policy of inquiry. After 18 months of office nothing had been done. Some months ago the right hon. Gentleman said that he had communicated with foreign Governments, that replies had been received from all but Germany, and that he had telegraphed for that reply. When the right hon. Gentleman was asked to circulate the correspondence, he replied that he would prefer to wait until it was complete; and he gave a definite pledge that, before the Board of Trade Vote was taken, the whole correspondence would be circulated. Hon. Members were still without that correspondence. He wished to know what were the dates of the communications to foreign Governments, the dates when the replies were received, and when the correspondence would be circulated. He further asked the right hon Gentleman, in the event of representations being being made to him under the Cheap Trains Act, 1883, about insufficient workmen's train accommodation between Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn, to exercise the powers which he possessed if the case were made out.

Mr. RITCHIE said that he had no objection to giving the assurance asked for. He was only too glad to take every opportunity of seeing that the Acts were properly carried out. As to the question of prison-made goods, he did mention it in his election address as requiring attention, and he was certain that the working classes of this country would not regard with equanimity the importation of prison-made goods. If he had promised to circulate the correspondence before the Board of Trade Vote was taken, the promise must have been conditional on the correspondence being ready. Germany had again and again been asked to reply, but none had yet been received, though that was the only reply still wanting. If there were no prospect of receiving a reply soon, he would consider the advisability of issuing the correspondence without it. There were two courses of action open to the Government. One was to try and get foreign Governments to join in friendly arrangements by which these goods should be retained from home consumption. The other was to introduce legislation prohibiting importation. It was desirable to escape the latter alternative if possible, because legislation of that kind was not easily framed or carried out. Moreover, restrictive legislation on imports was not in harmony with the general spirit of the day. He could not give the dates of the correspondence, but there was no delay whatever. It would undoubtedly be the duty of the Government to legislate, if it became necessary, as soon as there was a chance of passing the Bill.

[After the usual interval Mr. E. R. WODEHOUSE (Bath) took the Chair.]

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said that the Debates on this subject that took place before the last General Election were very different in character and tone to the Debates that had taken place since. Before the last election some of the gentlemen occupying the highest posts in the present Ministry endeavoured to impress upon the House that this question of prison-made goods was a real question of great importance. Now, however, the subject had been relegated to the pigeon holes of the Board of Trade. The President of that Department had been asked over and over again to produce the correspondence which had taken place with foreign countries on this subject. Was there any reason why that correspondence should not be produced? If so, what was the reason? He claimed that they were entitled to have this correspondence *in extenso*, and he trusted that none of it would be held back on the plea that it was confidential. The right hon. Member ought to disclose at once all the information that the Board of Trade had been able to obtain upon this question, so that they might ascertain how far the statements made by the Party opposite during the General Election were true. At the time of the election a large number of the working classes really believed what hon. Members opposite said about this question. How had they been treated? The subject had been shelved from month to month, and the information which ought to have been published was being still withheld.

MR. D. LLOYD-GEORGE reminded the Committee that when the question of prison-made goods was discussed in the late Parliament, the then President of the Board of Trade expressed his willingness to institute an inquiry. The present Secretary of State for the Colonies, however, declared that he would have nothing to do with an inquiry, and that the matter was of such vital importance that something ought to be done at once. The President of the Board of Trade then said that he was advised by his permanent officials that nothing could be done, and that it was impossible to discriminate between a prison-made brush and any other brush. The right hon. Member for West Birmingham thereupon said:—

> "Make us the family physician; give us the fees, and we will produce the prescription."

Well, the right hon. Member and his colleagues had now got the fees, but what had become of the prescription? The present President of the Board of Trade had refused to produce the prescription; he had turned his back upon the patient who was declared last year to be suffering from so grievous a malady, saying—

> "Do not bother me; your ailments are of no importance at all."

The electors had been treated badly in connection with this matter. The President of the Board of Trade had allowed the electors of the country to believe that he had a prescription in his pocket and was prepared to produce it. The right hon. Member said last year—

> "Exercise patience; I am in communication with Germany and other countries."

But since then nine months had elapsed, and he had been repeatedly pressed to publish the correspondence that had taken place. The right hon. Member that evening had made light of the matter, and evaded the question. As this correspondence was kept back they were entitled to assume that it proved that the aspect of the matter was not such as was ascribed to it in the election addresses of the President of the Board of Trade and the right hon. Member for West Birmingham. What was there of such importance in the correspondence that even the House of Commons could not be taken into the confidence of the Government? The real fact was that the right hon. Gentleman's own officials on the Board of Trade derided this idea. They knew that this notion, which misled London and so many other constituencies at the last election, was a perfectly preposterous one, and the right hon. Gentleman could not fly in the face of his officials. He would like to see the sort of letters the officials of the Board of Trade had been writing, and the Returns that had been made. Had the right hon. Gentleman communicated with the Consuls abroad, and, if so, what answers had he received? Why had they not been published? In the course of the Debate on the Estimates last year the Secretary for the Colonies intervened. The right hon. Gentleman was conveniently absent that night. He knew the value of this idea as an electioneering expedient. He knew perfectly well that there were thousands of electors who would be misled by the talk about foreign-made goods, and the right hon. Gentleman wilfully misled the electors of this country. The Secretary for the Colonies said last year that the policy of the late Government was to minimise the importance of the question of prison-made goods, but—

> "our policy is different. We do not minimise its importance. We are prepared to move in the matter. We will communicate with those foreign Powers, and, if they will not accede to our request, we will legislate."

Had the President of the Board of Trade any statistics with regard to these goods? How did they affect trade in this country? If it was only out of courtesy to the House of Commons, and in order to enlighten the electors, who were wilfully deluded at the last election, the information asked for ought to be given.

Mr. DALZIEL said that this Government had now been in office 18 months.

An hon. Member: No, no! Not 12.

*Mr. D. Lloyd-George.*

Mr. DALZIEL: Whether it was 18 or 12 months, the declaration they made on this subject was made some months before they took office, and it was certainly 18 months since they took the question up. They declared that the former President of the Board of Trade had refused to exercise the power he possessed in order to deal with this most pressing question. They tried to turn the Government out of office on the question, declaring that it was a most vital question affecting the well-being of the working classes, and the working classes thought that if this Government were returned to power, one of their first acts would be to deal with this important question. Yet 12 months after they came into office the President of the Board of Trade said, "Tell us what we can do." That was an admission that all the flowery orations of the Member for West Birmingham was so much clap-trap, intended to delude the electors. The British workman seemed to have been forgotten during the present Session, and the House had that night made an admission that practically nothing had been done, and that nothing was going to be done. He would ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he could not allow the House now to have this correspondence. Germany had had quite sufficient time to reply, and he did not see why the correspondence should be kept back simply because Germany had not been courteous enough to reply. Could the right hon. Gentleman tell the House now what was the purport of the replies he had received? Did they encourage him in the belief that this question was going to be settled? Was it to be a question of settlement, or would legislation be necessary? He thought that, in view of the declaration the right hon. Gentleman had made that the correspondence was to be issued before the Vote was taken, he would not think it unreasonable that he should now be asked what the purport of the replies he had received was. He should be sorry if he was compelled to take a Division with regard to the delay in producing the correspondence, and therefore he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give to the House some further information.

Mr. J. BRYCE (Aberdeen) thought the humorous position of the subject could hardly be appreciated by those who were not in the last Parliament, like the right hon. Gentleman. ["Hear, hear!"] It was a very interesting commentary on the way in which political questions were raised in this country by an Opposition who were anxious to find an opportunity of attacking the Government in power. In the Debate which took place in 1895 immense importance was attached to this subject. The House was told that the trade of the country was very severely affected, and particular appeal was made to the Government to relieve the working man of a great hardship. No one was keener on that occasion than the present Colonial Secretary, who dwelt on the carelessness and indifference of the Government to the interests of trade and the working men. It was his duty on that occasion to tell the House that, so far as the information of the Government went, this was a matter of infinitesimal importance. That statement was not accepted. It was supposed that the Board of Trade knew nothing about the matter, and they were upbraided with an indisposition to take the steps which were immediately necessary to remedy the evil. The Colonial Secretary in particular represented himself as being in possession of some means that would be adequate to meet the case. During the rest of the Session the then Government were frequently pressed on the question. A Committee was appointed, and their Report, which was made in the autumn, entirely bore out the statements that had been made on behalf of the Board of Trade, and showed that this was a matter of infinitesimal importance. The matter was brought up when the Estimates were discussed in the House in August last year. On that occasion the President of the Board of Trade told the House that diplomatic methods were being tried, and he remembered appealing to some of his friends to give the Government a chance of seeing what they could do by diplomacy. He was bound to say that, having consulted the Foreign Office on the subject, he had an idea that there was not very much to be obtained by that means. The Government, however, were more sanguine, and now, after the expiry of 11 months, the right hon. Gentleman was not able to state what diplomacy had done. This was the way in which questions were apt to be handled in the House. They knew all along that this was a mere piece of demagogism. They knew that it was being worked for electioneering purposes; but they did not expect that through the whole of this Session the Government would have shown such a complete indifference to their pledges.

MR. RITCHIE said the two hon. Members who preceded the right hon. Gentleman had spoken in a tone of indignation altogether unwarranted by the importance of the subject itself, or by anything that had been said or done by any Member of the Government. It was true there had been delay in publishing the correspondence, owing to the fact that a reply had not yet been received from Germany. But, as hon. Gentlemen must know, there was no chance of legislation this Session on the subject, and it, therefore, did not seem necessary to publish the correspondence until it was completed. If, however, a reply from Germany was not received soon, he would place himself in communication with the Foreign Office in order that what they had got of the correspondence should be published. They had nothing to conceal, and were anxious to place the whole of the information in their possession before the House. The purport of the communications generally was sympathetic, but they did not lead him to suppose that it would be possible to come to an understanding on the subject. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken of the humour of the situation represented by the Debate in 1895. It struck him that the humour of the situation was that the right hon. Gentleman, having tried to close the Debate by promising an Inquiry, changed his attitude on finding that that was not satisfactory to the House, and that the Government were likely to be defeated.

MR. BRYCE: I did not change my attitude, which throughout had been that the matter was of infinitesimal importance.

MR. RITCHIE agreed; he did not think the matter a large one, having regard to the extent of the importation of foreign prison-made goods; but the principle of admitting these goods was a large one, and it was to that principle he believed that the majority of the

House was opposed. The humour of the situation was that the right hon. Gentleman, having offered an Inquiry, accepted a Motion condemning that principle. His (Mr. Ritchie's) attitude had been perfectly consistent. He had always stated that he thought the question should be settled by negotiation rather than by legislation. They had endeavoured to obtain a settlement by negotiations, but the replies, though sympathetic, did not lead him to believe that they would result in any arrangement.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said he did not suppose that anybody would dispute the consistency of the President of the Board of Trade. They welcomed from him the statement, made in a guarded way, to the effect that this was a small matter.

Mr. RITCHIE: I said in so far as the importation is concerned it was not a large question, but the principle was.

Mr. ROBERTSON said the right hon. Gentleman distinguished between the question and the principle; the one was large and the other small. The right hon. Gentleman had said that nothing said or done by any Member of the present Government would justify the indignation which had been expressed by his hon. Friends below the Gangway. The right hon. Gentleman was not in the House 18 months ago when this question was discussed. He (Mr. Robertson) sat through the whole Debate, and he remembered what was said by a right hon. Gentleman who was now a Member of Her Majesty's Government largely on the strength of the speech he then made. He referred to the Secretary for the Colonies. The right hon. Gentleman then said that this was not a political question, but from that night it would be. There was no question, continued the right hon. Gentleman, upon which the working classes of this country had more generally made up their minds than upon this, and there was not a single Member who sat for an industrial constituency who could hold an open meeting and carry a resolution there against the principle of his hon. Friend. But what was the principle for which his hon. Friend contended? Downright restriction of the importation of prison-made goods. That was the principle which the right hon. Gentleman declared the working classes of the country had then made up their mind upon. They did not want inquiry; they wanted restriction. What was the present Government doing? Had they produced any restriction? The right hon. Gentleman (Mr. Chamberlain) fixed a special taunt on that occasion upon the working men Members by observing that they were conspicuous by their absence. Where was the right hon. Gentleman who made that taunt now? Why was he not on the Treasury Bench?

*The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wodehouse): I hope the hon. Gentleman will not pursue at length a retrospective survey of what happened in the last Parliament. Such discussion is scarcely regular.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he had not the slightest idea of doing anything like that. He did not intend to pursue the subject further. Nothing had been done by the President of the Board of Trade. Let the right hon. Gentleman go home with his salary in his pocket, but with the confession that the Government in this, as in many other things, had failed to carry out the pledges on the faith of which they won their big majority.

Mr. H. C. STEPHENS (Middlesex, Hornsey) complained of the unsatisfactory manner in which inquiries into the loss of vessels at sea were conducted by the Board of Trade. What was required for the protection of the ocean-travelling community was a searching investigation, and that was impossible owing to the mode in which the Inquiry was held. There was no real and sound reason why the procedure in relation to the loss of a ship of the Mercantile Marine should not be assimilated to the procedure in relation to the loss of a ship of Her Majesty's Navy. The result of the Inquiry into the loss of the *Drummond Castle* showed great recklessness and want of seamanlike skill in the captain; and it was reasonable and fair to ask whether there was any previous experience which might have led the owners to consider whether they did their duty in intrusting to that officer the command of the ship. He had found that both the captain and the chief officer of the *Drummond Castle* had been not remotely twice in trouble; and it was therefore natural for him to ask the President of the Board of Trade for the production of the ship's log. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade agreed that the ship's log should be presented at the Inquiry; but when they were asked for, the counsel for the Board of Trade protested that it was the first they had heard of the demand, and there was a long dispute before the books were produced. Again, he asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he would obtain the Lloyd's Registry Survey of the injury to and repairing of the *Doune Castle*; and the right hon. Gentleman refused. Yet those documents were produced, and proved to be the most important of the whole Inquiry. The President of the Board of Trade had informed the House that only one or two plates of the vessel were indented, but the evidence of one of the partners of the firm showed that the damage was much more serious. The captain said he thought that he had touched a piece of floating wreckage, and that the shock was so slight the incident was not entered on the log. Yet when the vessel was examined in dock it was evident, from the damage, that she must have struck a piece of detached rock. These misleading statements were laid before the public in a letter to the newspapers, a most extraordinary circumstance, seeing that Sir Donald Currie himself presided at the private inquiry. He wished to show that these Board of Trade Inquiries were, as now arranged, misleading, because an unnatural attitude of neutrality was forced on the Board of Trade which prevented any exhaustive examination of the facts. As far as the Board of Trade were concerned, the Inquiry into the *Drummond Castle* disaster would have been valueless. He regretted that the President of the Board of Trade had refused to print the evidence given at the Inquiry, because it settled, among other things, the vexed question as to whether a ship's boats should be in-swung or out-swung. There was no reason why the boats should not be always out-swung; and if they had been on board the *Drummond Castle* all hands might have been saved. There was another reason why he very much regretted the decision of the Board of Trade, because the Committee would remember there was very much complaint of the conduct of the captain of the *Werfa*; but really he had no option, for, if he had signalled at night to the *Drummond Castle*, it was quite clear the *Drummond Castle* would have had the right and, in self-defence, would have made a crushing claim for salvage. He wished the right hon. Gentleman had seen his way to print the evidence, but whether he did or not, it would be printed, because he did not think any greater publice service could be done than by publishing the whole of the evidence. He begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £500.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES did not think the hon. Gentleman had made out a case for printing the whole of this voluminous evidence. There never was a case in which the facts were more simple. The *Drummond Castle* was undoubtedly lost through the careless navigation of her master, through his neglect to avail himself of the means on board in Lord Kelvin's sounding apparatus of taking soundings. With regard to the Inquiry of the Board of Trade, he was no particular friend of those Inquiries. He did not think they were perfectly conducted, and in his opinion it would be better to replace them by something like the old fire inquiries which used to be held when there was a fire in the City. The Board of Trade was conducting what was practically a prosecution against one of their particular friends, the Member for Perthshire, who had always stood by them, whether in the rule of the road or in any other matter. But in this instance, for once, the result of the Inquiry had been complete and satisfactory. With regard to the boats being out-swung, he had to point out that by so doing there would be great risk of their being carried away. Nobody, except in the most favourable weather, would have the boats swung out. There was another matter which lay at the root of these disasters, and it was this, that the shipowner, while he had been most unjustifiably interfered with for years by the Board of Trade, nevertheless had an immunity which ought not to belong to him in the statutory limitations of his liability. That, he contended, was entirely contrary to public policy. The liability of a railway company was unlimited, and the result was that they required no Board of Trade to look after railways. [Mr.

LOWLES: "There is a railway department of the Board of Trade."] He knew that, and they had done nothing but mischief. Not by the superintendence of the Board of Trade, but by the care and vigilance produced by a long series of tremendous verdicts with great damages, that the railway companies had attained their present position. That was the way to deal with shipowners, to leave them absolutely unlimited for the wrongs they committed.

MR. BRYCE said that whatever might be the case with regard to the operation of the rule limiting the liability of shipowners to so much per ton, it could not be necessary or useful to the owners of the great passenger lines, because in the case of railways there was virtually no competition. But in the case of the great passenger lines there was keen competition, and the injury suffered by a great passenger line when it lost a vessel was an injury greater than could happen in any other way, and, therefore, he did not believe that any additional securities were needed. He could bear testimony, from his short experience of the Board of Trade, to the extreme care exercised in the great passenger lines, and he could certainly say that with regard to the Castle Line. The moral of the loss of the *Drummond Castle* was simple, and he did not think it could be increased by the issue of the printed evidence. The moral was that the greatest danger which was run at sea arose from a neglect to use the lead. More than half the cases, probably two-thirds of the cases, in which accidents occurred to British shipping were traceable to neglect of the use of the lead; and an accident of this kind ought to bring home to the captains of the mercantile marine the supreme importance of using the lead in approaching a dangerous coast.

MR. RITCHIE agreed with the observations of the right hon. Gentleman, and he thought that the report of the Committee fully bore out the statements made that the loss of the *Drummond Castle* was due to the neglect of the precautions with regard to the use of the lead, especially on a dangerous coast. Probably one of the results of this disaster would be to bring home this fact more closely to the minds of captains. Having regard to the very large number of voyages which those great passenger ships made, and the number of passengers they carried, it was very remarkable how small the loss of life was, and how few were the accidents. This showed that, generally speaking, they had nothing to complain of as to the manner in which the captains navigated their ships. He believed that, with regard to the Castle Line, although their ships had passed this dangerous coast many hundreds of times, this had been the only occasion on which loss of life had occurred. The Committee would see how impossible it was to endeavour to re-try the case in the House of Commons. He regretted that his hon. Friend had taken up the attitude he had assumed with regard to the position of the Board of Trade, and what it had done in connection with this Inquiry. The hon. Gentleman was dissatisfied with the action of the Board of Trade, and practically he said that, had it not been for the friends of those who were lost, very little evidence of value would have been obtained. No stone was left unturned by the Board of Trade in their endeavour to get evidence from every quarter; and he was satisfied that a most valuable portion of the evidence at the Inquiry was the evidence procured by the Board of Trade. He had more than one communication with his hon. Friend before the investigation took place, and he told the hon. Gentleman that, if there was anyone who could throw light on the accident he would take care to have him produced at the Inquiry. The hon. gentleman went to the Board of Trade and communicated with the authorities there, and they repeated his offer to the hon. Member and expressed a willingness to help him in every effort in order to elucidate various points connected with the accident.

MR. STEPHENS said that the right hon. Gentleman had declined to call a most important witness — Captain Vaughan.

MR. RITCHIE said he never declined to call him. He told the hon. Member that the Board of Trade were not prosecutors in this case, and they were willing to call every one who could throw light on the subject. He also told the hon. Member that the ship's logs were called for at the Inquiry, and they were produced. In defence of the Board of Trade he could assure the hon. Member that he went carefully through the brief prepared for counsel, and that a more complete specification of every point that ought to be produced and insisted upon at the Inquiry could not be imagined. If his hon. Friend was under the impression that the Board of Trade did not endeavour, by every means in their power, to throw all the light they could upon the causes of this disaster, he was much mistaken. Nothing would be gained by a publication of the evidence, and he must adhere to the answer which he had already given on that point.

MR. PRITCHARD MORGAN said that passenger ships ought to carry furniture and bedding of a buoyant nature. An exhibition of life-saving appliances was being held at the present moment in Holborn. A bed made of cork shavings and fibre was shown, which was capable of keeping several people afloat for a long time. The Board of Trade ought to insist that the benches on the deck of a vessel should not be fixed, so that they might be used as buoys in cases of disaster.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. C. W. CAYZER (Barrow-in-Furness) said that in all large passenger ships there was a cork belt in every berth capable of keeping any man afloat. The Board of Trade did all in their power to secure that there should be adequate life-saving appliance on board ships. As to the cork beds referred to by the hon. Member, he did not think that many hon. Gentlemen would like to sleep upon them.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that, in order to test the opinion of the Committee upon the question of prison-made goods, he would move formally to reduce the Vote by the sum of £100.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 52; Noes, 135.—(Division List, No. 361.)

*MR. F. A. CHANNING (Northamptonshire E.) asked in what form the reports of the Sub-inspectors of the Railway Department would be utilised, and whether they would be introduced into the annual Report, in the same way as the Reports of the Sub-inspectors of Mines? He also asked how many inquiries into fatal accidents had been held by the Sub-inspectors. Formerly inquiries into fatalities to individual railway servants were only made when they were of sufficient public interest to get into the Press, and lead some public man to demand an Inquiry. The number of Inquiries had very materially increased since the appointment of the Sub-inspectors, but were still only made in about one in six fatalities. A third point to which he desired to direct attention had reference to coroners' inquests. The present state of the law left the discretion as to the attendance of a representative of the Board of Trade at coroners' inquests into railway fatalities with the coroner. He maintained that in these cases the facts would be brought out better by a practical and scientific expert than by a legal functionary, and he suggested that a circular might be addressed to coroners on the subject by the President of the Board of Trade, or through the Home Office. With regard to these inquests it was too frequently the case that the coroner refused to grant a hearing to representatives of the deceased or of Trade Unions of railway servants, even when they were represented by solicitors. He thought that fatal accidents to railway servants should be investigated in the same manner as fatalities in mines and in factories. In the latter investigations, the coroner was compelled to have a representative of the Home Office present; and the presence of a representative of the Board of Trade was equally needed at railway cases, because it was only by the questions of a competent and informed person that the causes of accidents in many cases could be ascertained. He found that fatal accidents to the men employed on railways were three times as numerous as accidents in factories, and two-thirds of the number of those that occurred in coal mines. He was sure that if the Board of Trade was represented at those inquiries, it would tend to decrease the number of railway accidents. He would also like to know whether the right hon. Gentleman had any statement to make in regard to the promise he made last year to consider the question of increasing the number of assistant inspectors. If that were done, the Board of Trade could be more frequently represented than now at inquiries into railway accidents.

DR. TANNER (Cork, Mid.) said that for eight years he had called attention to the inadequate medical attendance given to poor emigrants on Atlantic liners, and also to the total want of such attendance in case of sailors who went on long voyages. Nothing, however, had been done to improve matters. There was no adequate medical provision on board the transatlantic steamers not of the first class. He knew a case where the plates of the ship's hospital had been unscrewed to convert the space into saloon passenger accommodation. The water supply was not sufficient. Sometimes 300 emigrants had to depend on one tap, turned on only at certain hours, for the whole supply for every purpose. If the doctors tried to do their duty they would be dismissed. The columns of the medical journals had been devoted to this question for years. He knew a liner which was used for passenger service three or four days after cattle had been discharged. There was no sanitary accommodation on board; the vessel was three days in a storm; her 300 emigrants were battened down; and the condition of filth became so execrable that the stewards almost revolted, and the medical officer fainted on going below.

Mr. EDWARD STRACHEY (Somerset, S.) asked the President of the Board of Trade to tell the Committee what his Department had done in regard to the still further reduction of railway rates for home produce in the way of bringing them down to the level of the rates for the more favoured foreign produce. Now that the great railway companies were flourishing they could afford to reduce their rates?

Mr. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.) stated that while for two tons and upwards the difference made by the railway companies in their rates was inconsiderable, upon quantities under two tons they had increased the rates from 50 to 75 per cent. The result was that, in a poor country like Ireland, the vast majority of the traders were heavily handicapped in competition with their richer rivals. This was a grievance which came home to the poor and small farmers of Ireland. He pointed out that in 1894 the increase of the Great Northern Railway Company was £30,000; in 1895 it was £40,000; but the traffic had not increased. There was scarcely a railway company whose dividends had increased from 1¼ per cent. to 2¼ per cent. since 1893. While, therefore, the traffic had decreased, the dividends had increased, on account of the railway companies getting their rates advanced in 1893. The money came eventually out of the consumers' pockets. He asked for an investigation, and hoped that the rates would be brought back to what they were in 1893. He further called attention to a level crossing near Castleblaney, and the danger thereby caused to the lives of the people.

Mr. RITCHIE said that he had no power to interfere with level crossings or platforms authorised to be constructed by Acts of Parliament. He could, however, make representations on subjects of that kind to the railway companies, and was always ready to do so when it appeared to him to be desirable. With regard to any unjustifiable advance in railway rates, he would point out that aggrieved traders were given a remedy by the Railway and Canal Traffic Act of 1888. The Board of Trade had no power to compel a company to alter their rates. But the Department had brought pressure to bear upon companies, and the result was that there had been a considerable modification of the rates in a large number of cases. In his last communication with the companies he had taken note of the concessions which they said they would make, and had urged them to make those concessions public. He had been asked how many Inquiries into fatal accidents had been held in the past year by the inspectors of the Board of Trade. The number of such Inquiries had considerably increased. In 1893 there were 450 accidents and one Inquiry; in 1894 there were 479 accidents and eight Inquiries; and in 1895, 442 accidents and 70 Inquiries. Thus, although the number of accidents in 1895 was less than in 1893, there was an enormous increase in the number of Inquiries. There was also a great increase in the number of Inquiries held by sub-inspectors, and he was glad to be able to say that so far the sub-inspectors had been an undoubted success, and had contributed largely to the more satisfactory state of things that now existed. With regard to the attendance of sub-inspectors at inquests and the publication of their reports, he had been in communication with the sub-inspectors, and they told him, without hesitation, that they were altogether against the publication of their reports. They said that these reports were made for the information of the inspectors only, and were likely to be much more useful if they were not published. Then, with regard to attendance at inquests; there again, they considered that if they were called on to attend inquests their usefulness would largely decrease, and that the inquiries they made by night and by day would enable them to see the working of the lines and the mode in which the work was done was of far more service in preventing accidents than any attendance at inquests. The hon. Gentleman had drawn an analogy between the action of the inspectors of the Home Office in attending inquests and that of the inspectors of the Board of Trade; but the inspectors of the Home Office occupied quite a different position. There was a statutory obligation cast upon the Home Office to have continuous inspections of mines and factories, and those inspections were carried out by inspectors appointed for a district. Naturally those gentlemen could give considerable information to coroners. The case was different with the railway inspector. He was very glad, indeed, to bear testimony to the good work done by the sub-inspectors, and he could assure the hon. Gentleman that if any necessity arose for increasing their number he should not hesitate to do so; but at present he did not think there was any necessity for an increase.

*MR. CHANNING thought that the publication in some form or other of the reports of sub-inspectors was of real importance in introducing reforms in the working of railways, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would further consider the question. He did not understand the idea of the sub-inspectors when they said that their reports were only made for the information of the superior inspector, and he thought that the publication of the notes made by them on the cause of a fatality would be of public service.

MR. RITCHIE apologised to the hon. Member for Cork (Dr. Tanner) for having omitted to refer to the point raised by him. All he could say was that the hon. Gentleman had again and again made statements similar to that he had made that day, but he had never given any particulars. It was quite impossible for him to make an investigation into a charge unless it was properly formulated. If the hon. Gentleman would give particulars as to the name of the ship or otherwise, which would enable him to examine into the matter, it would receive his careful attention.

DR. TANNER suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should apply to his own medical inspectors in the different ports for information. He would not give names because a reign of terror prevailed, and these men would be discharged for doing their duty.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said the right hon. Gentleman had not answered the question as to the unfair competition created through railway companies carrying foreign goods at special rates.

Original question put and agreed to.

3. Motion made and Question proposed:—

"That a sum, not exceeding £9,600, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners in Lunacy in England."

MR. DALZIEL asked how many Votes the Government proposed to take?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he had hoped that they should have finished the Board of Trade Vote at an earlier period of the evening, in which case they would have gone on with the Votes in their order. It was, however, now quite manifest that they could not expect to get the remaining Board of Trade Vote and the Local Government Board Vote in a reasonable time to-night, and these Votes had, accordingly, been passed over. He understood that there was no objection to the Lunacy Vote. He was informed by the Treasury that the Stationery Office Vote was absolutely exhausted, and that Vote must consequently be got that night.

MR. DALZIEL said there were some important points to be raised on the Stationery Vote, and he suggested, if the Vote were taken that night, the report should be put down for a time when the matter could be reasonably discussed.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire) asked that an opportunity should be given on the Local Government Board Vote for the discussion of the Poor Law Schools Commission.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said the duty of the Leader of the House was constantly to try to get fourteen horses into ten stalls. [*Laughter.*] But he would do his best to see that the important Votes got the best places.

**Sir HENRY FOWLER** (Wolverhampton) thought the proposal of the Leader of the House a very fair one and one the Committee ought to accept. ["Hear, hear!"] There were only two more days for Committee of Supply. The right hon. Gentleman had promised to bring on the Army and the Scotch Votes the next day, and he hoped that on the last day a prominent position would be given to the Vote for the Local Government Board, which was really the most important Vote left.

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY**: I understand that the view of the Committee is that the Local Government Board Vote is the most important remaining Vote; and that, if the Stationery Vote is given to us to-night, that the Report of that Vote will be the most important report outstanding. If that is the view of the Committee, I will endeavour to carry it out.

**Mr. DALZIEL**: The Report of the Stationery Vote will not be taken without notice?

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY**: No, Sir.

Question put, and agreed to.

The following Votes were agreed to without discussion:—

4. £376,571, to complete the sum for stationery and printing.

5. £26,700, to complete the sum for Civil Service Commission.

6. £39,974, to complete the sum for Exchequer and Audit Department.

7. £5,300, to complete the sum for Friendly Societies Registry.

8. £9,500, to complete the sum for National Debt Office.

9. £8,833, to complete the sum for Privy Council Office.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

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## WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Monday next.

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## PUBLIC WORKS LOANS (REMISSION).

(Considered in Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman of Ways and Means, in the Chair.]

**The SECRETARY to the TREASURY** (Mr. R. W. Hanbury, Preston) moved:—

> "That it is expedient to authorise the remission of a debt due from the Draperstown Railway Company to the Public Works Loan Commissioners, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to grant moneys for the purpose of certain Local Loans, and for other purposes relating to Local Loans."

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** asked whether the Secretary to the Treasury could by any means bring pressure to bear on this railway company to recoup the widow of a certain official for loss she had incurred, and also whether the railway company had been approached to wipe out the debt, or was it a mere book-keeping matter. He asked who was responsible for something like a job?

***Mr. HANBURY** said he wished that he could give the information. The sale of this railway was effected for the small sum of £2,000 in 1894 under a system which he did not think was a proper way of selling an undertaking of this kind. He would put the case of the widow before the Treasury if the hon. Member would give him the particulars, and see how far they could deal with it. But the sale complained of had not been effected by the present Government. The responsibility rested with the Ministry of the day, and the Department which carried out the arrangements—namely, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer and the late Secretary to the Treasury. The debt was practically valueless; it was merely a book-keeping arrangement.

Resolution agreed to; to be reported to-morrow.

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## EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE.

Bill to continue various Expiring Laws, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer; presented accordingly and read the First time; to be read a Second time upon Monday next, and to be printed.—[Bill No. 330.]

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** gave notice that at a subsequent stage he should move the omission of the Arms Act from the list of measures dealt with.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at Twenty minutes after Twelve o'clock.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Saturday, 1st August 1896*

The House met at Twelve of the clock.

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

### DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) raised a question of privilege. He said that it was essential with regard to all private Bills that ample time should be given to opponents to bring forward their objections. Yesterday, at half-past 4 o'clock, a Motion was carried to recommit the Dublin Corporation Bill. At 5 o'clock the Committee of Selection met, without notice to the Chairman, (Sir John Mowbray), and appointed four Members to serve on the Select Committee for the recommitted Bill. Monday at 11 o'clock was named for the further hearing of the Bill till a protest was made, and then, as a matter of grace to the opponents, a postponement till Tuesday was made. Grave interests were involved, and half-a-dozen townships were concerned. They could not decide what to do at a moment's notice, and in any case they required time to organise the opposition. He submitted that the Committee of Selection, in acting without notice to their Chairman, and in refusing to give time for the opposition to the Bill, had abrogated the private Bill practice of the House and had denied justice to the parties concerned.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I have not yet seen any question of privilege. The Select Committee when appointed have a right to fix their own time, unless this House makes an Order to the contrary. It may be a matter of complaint, but it cannot be a question of privilege, that the Committee have appointed a day which is said to be inconvenient to the parties.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Then I submit that the Committee of Selection, in holding a meeting without notice to its Chairman, and without considering the Bill, committed an irregularity of procedure amounting to a breach of privilege.

*Mr. SPEAKER: As far as I can see, nothing has been done contrary to any Rules of the House. The convenience of the parties is a matter for the Chairman of Committees.

### TROUT FISHING CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order for Committee read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

### UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

On the Order for the Third Reading of this Bill,

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) protested that this work was being undertaken without any idea of what the total cost would be. If the railway were any ordinary undertaking, it would not be entered upon without, in the first place, most exhaustive surveys, and every specification being provided for.

Bill read the Third time, and passed.

### LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS (RE-COMMITTED) BILL [H.L.].

As amended, considered.

On the Question, "That the Bill be read the Third time,"

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.) asked what would be the effect in Ireland of the tax to be imposed on motor cars?

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Henry Chaplin, Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said that the Bill did not affect Ireland at all. The tax was an addition to the existing Carriage Tax, and there was no Carriage Tax in Ireland.

Mr. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) thought it very strange that Ireland should be exempted from this Bill.

Bill read the Third time, and passed, with Amendments.

### TELEGRAPH MONEY BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; to be read the Third time upon Monday next.

## PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

Clause 3,—

### LOANS TO SCOTTISH FISHERY BOARD FOR CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENT OF HARBOURS IN SCOTLAND.

Where under Section twenty-seven of the Sea Fisheries Regulation (Scotland) Act 1895, the Fishery Board for Scotland, with the consent of the Secretary for Scotland, apply to the Public Works Loan Commissioners for a loan on the security of the annual grant under the Fisheries Act 1824, or of any part thereof, the Public Works Loan Commissioners may grant the loan on the same terms as regards rate of interest and period for repayment as are applicable to loans to harbour authorities under the Harbours and Passing Tolls, etc., Act, 1861.

*MR. T. M. HEALY asked what additional privileges the Scotch Fishery Boards obtained under this Bill.

*MR. HANBURY said that there was no difference in the rate of interest on Irish and Scotch harbour loans. Under the existing law the Scotch Fishery Board could borrow at 4 per cent. The Public Works Loan Commissioners had power to lend to Harbour Boards at 3¼ per cent., and this clause merely allowed the same terms to the Fishery Board as to a Harbour Board in that respect.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would pledge himself that any reduced rate of interest granted in the case of Scotch loans would be given also in the case of Irish loans?

*MR. HANBURY said that the rate of interest charged must depend on the purposes of the loan and the security given.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that the Dundalk Harbour Board, which was paying 4 per cent. for its loan, applied for a lower rate of interest and were refused. Unless he could get a satisfactory explanation of the favouritism shown to Scotland, he should divide against the clause and move Amendments on Report.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) said he had no particular knowledge of the case of Dundalk. The amount of interest charged on these loans was regulated by Act of Parliament. He agreed, however, that the system of fixing the rate of interest on loans for local purposes was unsatisfactory and required consideration. He would undertake to look into the matter between now and next year, and endeavour to fix the rate of interest for all parts of the United Kingdom alike, dependent upon the purpose of the loan and the security which could be given. He could assure the hon. Member that the Government had no desire to do injustice to Ireland as compared with Scotland in this matter.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked, in regard to future advances, whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer would undertake that money would not be advanced for Scottish harbours at a cheaper rate than in the case of Irish harbours?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: Assuming the security to be the same, I think I can give such an assurance.

MR. J. G. HOLBORN (Lanark, N.W.) did not think that in Scotland they were at all favoured by the Treasury, but considered the hon. Gentleman had made out a case for inquiry as to the principles on which those loans were granted, which should be as far as possible uniform and at the lowest rate.

Clause 3 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4,—

### APPORTIONMENT OF ADVANCES FOR DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUMS IN IRELAND.

In the case of any district lunatic asylum in Ireland, established or to be established for a district consisting of more than one county (including a county of a city and a county of a town), the Lord Lieutenant may, by Order in Council, direct that any money advanced, or to be advanced, by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland for any of the purposes of the asylum shall be repaid by the counties forming the district in such manner and in such proportions as may be fixed by the Order.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a pledge that, ample security being given by the Grand Jury, Irish Lunatic Asylum Boards should get loans on as favourable terms as those on which the Scotch Industry Loans were granted.

*MR. HANBURY said that, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated, the whole question of these loans was one which ought to be considered, and it would be considered very soon, because the Acts of Parliament regulating these loans and the rate of interest varied very considerably without any very good apparent reason. He hoped the hon. and learned Gentleman would consider the pledge of the Chancellor of the Exchequer a sufficient indication of the view of the Government, that, as far as they probably could secure it, when the security was of exactly the same character, the same rate of interest should be chargeable in the three countries.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked the right hon. Gentleman to explain the purpose of the Clause.

*MR. HANBURY said, that by the 18 & 19 Vic. cap. 109, the Lord Lieutenant was empowered to make orders for the apportionment of the moneys actually expended on lunatic asylums. At that time no interest was chargeable on advances. Interest was first imposed by the Public Works Loans Act of 1877, and the Board of Works thought it necessary to have the power to make an early apportionment in such cases. Since 1877 these loans had grown very considerably, and when two or three authorities were concerned in the loan up to the present moment the apportionment of their share in the loans had not been made until the work was actually completed, and these works had sometimes taken seven or eight years to complete. During that time, of course, advances had been made, and it had been impossible to obtain payment of the interest on the advances as soon as they were made, owing to the fact that the apportionment could not be made until the work was actually completed. The hon. Gentleman would see that that certainly was not a fair arrangement to the lending authority. It was only fair that interest should be got on moneys actually advanced. It was proposed under this clause that the apportionment should be made between the different authorities when the advances were made, and that they should pay interest on their share.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) said this was a matter which excited very great interest in Ireland, and it acquired importance from the fact that, owing to the overcrowding of lunatic asylums, a great many of them had been considerably extended, and large sums of money had been spent upon their extension. The attention of the Secretary of the Treasury had been called to the fact that the advances to the asylums were being made on such terms as to practically enable the Treasury to make a profit. During the first few years he should think that the Chief Secretary must have received some hundreds of resolutions from different public bodies protesting against the terms which the Treasury imposed. These protests had come not from Nationalist Members of Parliament, but from Grand Juries composed of landowners and country gentlemen. Though he admitted that they had received on the present occasion a more favourable statement as to the rate of interest than they had previously succeeded in extracting, on the other hand the substance of the reply was that the local bodies in Ireland were now to pay interest which previously the Treasury could not extract.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanark, Partick) said that this appeared to be a Scottish grievance rather than an Irish one. Scotland had been paying 4 per cent. against 3½ on the part of Ireland, as well as a reasonable amount for lunatic asylums against nothing at all on the part of Ireland.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that a deputation, composed of gentlemen belonging to Grand Juries, recently waited on the Lord Lieutenant with reference to this grievance. They applied for some fair consideration with regard to these loans, but instead of receiving a pledge that the loans would be reduced to the market rate, the Board of Works practically said Ireland had not been paying interest and they wanted coercive powers. The Government should give a statement as to their policy with regard to these lunacy loans. Why was the clause necessary at the present time? He complained that, instead of hon. Members getting reasons for Bills in the shape of Blue-books or Treasury statements, the Government practically brought forward their financial proposals in such a manner as to cause the House as a whole to play at blind man's buff.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said he had not seen the clause before that day. Certain counties in Ireland had joined themselves together for the purpose of loans for lunatic asylums, and, without such an apportionment as was here provided, the loans would not be properly arranged. This clause legalised that apportionment, and if sanction was not given to the clause possibly the whole matter would be suspended; but he would give an undertaking to look carefully into the question before next Session, when he hoped to make some proposals affecting the rate of interest on loans generally.

MR. MAURICE HEALY asked why the clause was drawn in such a manner that no Member of the House could possibly understand that it was a clause which imposed a fresh charge on Irish taxpayers? Though the clause purported to be one for the apportionment of these charges, no one would suspect that the apportionment was little more than a process of levying interest. These loans had probably been made for more than half a century. The basis of the original system was that interest was not to be paid until an apportionment was made; and they must assume that the Treasury calculated the original rate of interest in view of the circumstances in which the advance had to be made, and that no interest would be payable pending an apportionment. The clause was unintelligible to the House until the Chancellor of the Exchequer explained that it was a proposal enabling the Treasury to levy a charge on Irish taxpayers which during half a century had never previously been made. Next Session was the time to make any change in the mode of apportionment of the loans and the charges for them; and in these circumstances he asked the right hon. Gentleman to withdraw the clause this year.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER admitted that there was some reason in the view which had been urged, but the Government did not feel able to withdraw the clause. He was advised that it went beyond the payment of interest, and that it was necessary to legalise the apportionment between counties. If the Committee passed the clause the Government would undertake to make such an Amendment in it on Report as would secure that it should not involve any new charge of interest on counties before the date when the interest became due.

MR. T. M. HEALY accepted the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He thought, however, that the Resolution on which the Bill was founded was too narrow. It had only regard to the case of the Draperstown Railway; but the Committee were passing a clause creating a further charge on the taxpayer. He submitted as a point of order that it was incompetent for the Committee to pass the clause at all at this stage, because, while creating a fresh charge, they were not basing their procedure in reference to it. He suggested that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should undertake to withdraw the clause now, and that hereafter the Committee should have the advantage of debating this matter in Committee, and not on Report stage.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I may point out that the last words of the Resolution of the House are, "and for other purposes relating to local loans." I think those words will cover this clause.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that, after all, he thought the clause had better be omitted.

Clause negatived.

Clause 5,—

CERTAIN DEBTS NOT TO BE RECKONED AS ASSETS OF LOCAL LOANS FUND.

Whereas it is expedient that the principal of the several local loans specified in the schedule to this Act should, to the extent specified in the last column of that schedule, not be reckoned as assets of the Local Loans Fund established under the National Debt and Local Loans Act, 1887: therefore the principal of the said loans shall, to that extent, be written off from the assets of the Local Loans Fund, and the provisions of Section fifteen of the said Act shall, so far as applicable, apply thereto.

MR. T. P. WHITTAKER (York, W.R., Spen Valley) asked for an explanation of the clause.

*MR. HANBURY said that it was only for the purpose of replenishing the coffers of the Local Loans Fund by wiping off the assets specified, and replacing them by funds upon the Exchequer, that this clause was introduced.

MR. WHITTAKER asked whether the amount to be written off the assets of the Local Loans Fund was irrecoverable?

*MR. HANBURY said that the sum was not written off as irrecoverable.

MR. WHITTAKER thought they must make up their minds that these amounts were written off as bad loans, and he trusted that this would be a warning to the House not to make loans of this character.

MR. PARKER SMITH wished to know for how long these loans had been running, and whether, calculating the rate of interest payable under the Local Loans Fund, any allowance was made for bad debts. Was the rate of interest sufficient to cover bad debts?

*MR. HANBURY replied that the possibility of bad debts was taken into consideration in calculating the amount of interest. The loans in question had only been running since 1886.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6,—

REMISSION OF LOAN TO DRAPERSTOWN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Whereas the property mortgaged as security for the loan mentioned in Part II. of the Schedule of this Act has been sold with the consent of the Treasury, and it is therefore expedient that the debt due in respect of the principal sum outstanding on account of that loan should be extinguished: *therefore the said debt (including all claims for interest in respect thereof) shall be extinguished and the amount thereof shall be deemed to be a free grant from Parliament.*

*MR. HANBURY said that in 1884 a loan of £15,000 was made to the Draperstown Railway Company. Some years afterwards the Company became practically bankrupt and arrangements were entered into by which an adjoining company worked the railway, receiving 70 per cent. of the receipts. That agreement expired three years ago, and the Railway Company which was working the line then asked to have 85 per cent. of the receipts. That the Government refused, and, being unable to come to any other arrangement they sold the line in respect of which there was this loan of £15,000 to the adjoining railway company for £2,000. The line having been sold, there was of course no further security for the loan. Having, therefore, no hope whatever of recovering anything more, this loan was treated as a bad debt. The line in question was a very small one, extending only for nine or ten miles.

MR. WHITTAKER asked whether the interest on the loan had not been paid for a number of years, and whether that loss should be added to the loss of the amount advanced.

*MR. HANBURY was sorry to say that the loss did extend to the interest.

MR. T. M. HEALY: This case is not a job perpetrated by the present Government, but by the last Goverment.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, with an Amendment; Bill, as amended, to be considered on Monday next.

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## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

As amended, considered.

Clause 3,—

DEFINING SECTION 96 (2) OF 53 & 54 VICT. C. 70.

Section ninety-six, sub-section two, of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, shall be read and construed as if the words "and any Acts amending the same" had been inserted after "1871," and as if the words "in the case of a rural sanitary authority" had been inserted after the words "provided that" occurring in that sub-section.

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) moved, at the end of the clause to add:—

Provided that any expenditure that any burgh, within the meaning of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, may make under the provisions of this or of the recited Acts shall be defrayed out of a rate to be levied along with, but as a separate rate from, the general improvement rate leviable under said Burgh Police (Scotland) Act where such general improvement rate is levied; but where such rate is not levied, then by a rate to be imposed and levied in the same manner as if it were the general improvement rate, with all the powers of imposition, collection, and recovery applicable to that rate."

He explained that the effect of the Amendment would be to assimilate the system of taxation in burghs for the purposes of this Bill with the system that would prevail in counties. If the Amendment were agreed to half the rate would be borne by the owners and half by the occupiers. He protested against the proposal to impose the rate in burghs upon occupiers exclusively; but he did not intend to press his Amendment to a Division.

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and negatived.

Bill read the Third time, and passed, with an Amendment.

## BISHOPRIC OF BRISTOL ACT AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

Clause 2,—

Section two of the schedule to the Bishopric of Bristol Act, 1884, is hereby repealed, and there shall by virtue of this Act be substituted for it the following section, that is to say:—

The diocese to consist of—

(*a*) "The deaneries of Bristol and Stapleton";

(*b*) "The deaneries of Malmesbury or Malmesbury North, Chippenham or Malmesbury South, and Cricklade, in the county of Wilts (except the parishes of Kemble and Poole Keynes in the deanery of Malmesbury and the parishes of Somerford Keynes and Sharncote in the deanery of Cricklade), and the deanery of Bitton in the county of Gloucester";

and all other provisions of the said Act as amended by the Bishopric of Bristol Amendment Act, 1894, and all other enactments having reference in any manner to the section aforesaid shall be read and have effect accordingly.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) said that while he had no intention of opposing the Measure, he wished to offer one or two observations upon it, as no Debate had taken place on the Second Reading. This subject had been brought before the notice of Parliament on several occasions. Fourteen years ago an Act was passed authorising the formation of a separate See for Bristol, but the bishopric was not yet in existence. Then, two years ago an amending Act was passed, and now Parliament was asked to pass another Measure on the subject. The necessary funds for the formation of the See had been obtained, with the exception of £5,000, which was required for the purpose of making alterations in the Bishop's house and erecting a private chapel. Bearing in mind the time that had elapsed since this project was first started, it was not unreasonable to suppose that yet more time would elapse before the contributions to the fund reached the additional sum that was wanted. By that time the promoters of this legislation might have changed their minds once more upon the subject of the boundaries of the proposed diocese, and in that case application would have to be made to Parliament for the fourth time. Other religious denominations did not trouble Parliament in that way; the reason being that they were not established by law. The money necessary for the See had obviously been obtained with great difficulty; but, when everything would be ready for the appointment of the Bishop the subscribers to the fund would have no share in the selection made, but would have to accept the nominee of the Prime Minister of the day.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: Order, order! The remarks of the hon. Member are not pertinent to this clause, which deals simply with the limits of the See.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS concluded by saying that, when the See should have been created and a Bishop appointed, many of the subscribers to the fund would in all probability disapprove of the selection.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey) asked what was the amount of income proposed to be transferred under this Bill, and at whose instigation the Bill was brought forward. A significant memorandum on the back of the Bill said that it was introduced in order to meet the wishes of some of the principal owners of property in certain parishes. But owners of property were not the people chiefly interested in subjects of this kind, and he wished to ask whether the parishioners concerned had been consulted in the matter?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said he was responsible for this Bill. There was nothing whatever in the Bill about any transfer of money. It merely dealt with an alteration of the boundaries laid down for the Bishopric of Bristol under a former Act. The phrase to which the hon. Member referred was certainly rather an unfortunate one, but he was not responsible for it. He knew that the parishioners had been consulted, and that it was their unanimous desire that the change should be made.

Bill reported, without Amendment; Bill read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

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## ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn,"—(*First Lord of the Treasury*)—put, and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly, at Twenty minutes after One o'clock, till Monday next.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Monday, 3rd August 1896.*

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

### DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Mr. T. B. CURRAN (Donegal, N.) moved :—

> "That the Order to re-commit this Bill to the Committee of Selection be read and discharged, and that the Bill be referred to a Committee of the Whole House."

He said that it would be unfair to the promoters of the Bill to compel them to appear before a Committee again; and that the points to which the Speaker had drawn attention could be more cheaply and effectively dealt with in Committee of the Whole House.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said that the Motion made by the hon. Member for the Harbour Division (Mr. T. Harrington) on Friday last, had placed the promoters of the Bill in a position of great difficulty and anxiety. Their expenses had been between £8,000 and £9,000; and those of the opponents had been almost as much. All the questions relating to gas, water and fire brigade had been thrashed out in the Lords' Committee and the Commons' Committee. Under those circumstances the hon. Member for the Harbour Division moved to recommit the Bill generally and in respect of all its clauses. Now the hon. Member sought to repair his error by limiting the scope of the new Inquiry by a Motion that the Minutes of Evidence before the former Committee be referred to the new Committee, and that it should be an Instruction to the Committee to take no further evidence with respect to parts 1, 2 and 4 of the Bill, thereby nullifying practically the Motion he had already carried, and depriving the opponents of the Bill of the opportunity of again stating the case which apparently his first Motion contemplated they should make. Therefore he conceived that an inconsistent position had been assumed. He submitted to the Government that the true course would be, unless they agreed to the Motion which his hon. Friend had moved, to accept an Amendment somewhat like the following:—That it be an Instruction to the Committee that the preamble be deemed proved, and that the Committee make only such Amendments to Clauses 15 and 23 as will bring them into accordance with the instructions of this House and such consequential Amendments to Part 3 as the said Amendments may render necessary or desirable. That would not in any way conflict with the ruling already given; on the contrary, it would harmonise with it, because it dealt with Part 3 of the Bill as a whole, and enabled the Committee to have seisin of that portion of the Bill. By deeming the preamble proved, they would free the promoters of the expenses they would undoubtedly incur in regard to the water clauses, and would liberate the gentlemen connected with the Select Committee from the arduous and invidious task, at this period of the Session, of considering once more the clauses which another Select Committee had already considered. The Dublin Corporation, he pointed out, had come to a very important conclusion on Saturday, which greatly strengthened the view he put forward. The Committee having charge of this Bill, under the Presidency of Sir R. Sexton, one of the most eminent Conservative members of the Corporation, and respected by all classes in Dublin, met to consider this Bill on Saturday, and arrived at the following unanimous resolution. The hon. Member for the Dublin Harbour Division had posed here as the representative of the Dublin Corporation. He was nothing of the kind.

Mr. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin Harbour), was understood to say, that he did not profess to represent the promoters, but the citizens of Dublin.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that being so, the hon. Member occupied exactly the same position as any other Member of the House, whose arguments had to be considered solely upon their merits. The promoters of the Bill had passed the following resolution :—

> "That the law agent be instructed to advise counsel and to take all possible means to obtain the passing of the water clauses with or without the franchise clauses."

In other words, the Committee having charge of this Bill had arrived at the conclusion that, with the franchise clauses or without them, they were anxious for this Bill. The points raised, therefore, were extremely narrow ones, and he begged to move his Amendment.

MR. HARRINGTON said that the Amendment and the Instruction which the hon. Member had just read were ruled out by the decision which the House arrived at on Friday, and the Amendment the hon. Member now sought to introduce was precisely the same Amendment in another form which was negatived by the vote of the House on Friday night.

MR. T. M. HEALY submitted that his Instruction was different in several respects.

*MR. SPEAKER: It seems to me that what the hon. and learned Member proposes would be something extending the Instruction which stands in the name of the hon. Member for Cork. An Amendment by way of extension would be out of order. I would suggest to the hon. and learned Member whether Instruction No. 6, which stands in the name of the hon. Member for the Harbour Division, might not be utilised by him by way of Amendment. That Instruction proposes to admit the evidence given before the former Committee, and that it be an Instruction to the Committee to take no further evidence as to Parts 1, 2 and 4 of the Bill, thus leaving No. 3 untouched, and the Committee entirely at large. Therefore it would be in order for the hon. Member to move as an Amendment to that Instruction some Instruction limiting the authority of the Committee to deal with Part 3, which was not touched.

MR. T. M. HEALY thanked Mr. Speaker, and suggested to his hon. Friend that he should withdraw his Motion and take the discussion on the Instruction of the hon. Member for the Harbour Division.

MR. T. HARRINGTON said that the hon. and learned Member had spoken to the House on an Instruction from the Committee of the Dublin Corporation in charge of the Bill, but he was most careful not to inform the House that this Committee consisted of three members, one of them being a species of politician rare in Dublin—a supporter of the hon. Gentleman himself. The Committee was convened at an hour's notice, and to speak of that Committee as representing in any way the Corporation of Dublin with regard to the Bill was only another endeavour added to the many already made to deceive the House of Commons. The hon. and learned Member seemed to be extremely anxious about the fate of this Bill; but it was curious that he spoke with different voices on the Bill, so much so that they found it difficult to find where exactly the hon. Member was. The hon. Member's complaint on Saturday was that the Committee had been formed so speedily that the Chairman was not communicated with, and he assailed the appointment of the Committee, and raised a question of breach of privilege. But there was a safe remedy open to the hon. and learned Member. He invited the hon. Member, if he wished to facilitate the passage of the Bill, to allow the franchise clause to be negatived as well as the other clauses by which he sought to give permanent positions with the right of pensions to officials of the Corporation annually elected, and who did not give evidence with regard to the claim. In the six or seven townships surrounding Dublin not a single Nationalist could get a seat on one of the Boards, but the hon. and learned Member wished to try his experiment of minority representation on Dublin. The hon. Member had misrepresented him by stating that he moved to recommit the Bill as a whole. The House would not be deceived by those tactics. His Motion was followed by an Instruction that the Bill be recommitted with respect to Clauses 20 to 26; but that Instruction he was not permitted to move.

*MR. SPEAKER pointed out that the suggestion he made was that the Bill should be recommitted as to Clauses 15 to 26, and the hon. Member moved that the Bill be recommitted generally, though not by any direction of his.

MR. HARRINGTON said that in this case he must have misunderstood the directions given by the Chair.

*MR. SPEAKER said that the Motion of the hon. Member on the Paper was to recommit the Bill.

MR. HARRINGTON: Followed by an Instruction dealing with the clauses to which he took exception. He understood that it was incompetent for him to move this as one Motion. He appealed to the Government, who must to some extent be responsible for private Bill legislation dealt with in the House, to assist the House in getting out of the difficulty with regard to the Bill. Here was a Bill strictly limited in scope to the one principle of charging townships a price agreed upon with the Corporation, and because there was a technical flaw in the Acts by which the price naturally came to be charged, the extension of the municipal franchise was introduced in a clumsy, unworkable clause without consultation with any body of citizens as to how it might be worked and how it might interfere with any previous rights of the citizens. If the hon. Member was anxious to pass the Bill, let him agree to strike out the franchise and other clauses. They did not want minority representation in Dublin, while the Nationalists were not allowed to get "a look in" in any of the townships around Dublin. Another set of clauses dealt with a number of officers temporarily appointed by the Corporation of Dublin. The City Marshal, for example, was paid by certain fees derived from the pawnbrokers of Ireland; but according to this Bill, without evidence taken, he was to receive a permanent appointment with a right of getting a pension from the Corporation. He submitted that this was a scandalous use to make of the procedure of private Bill legislation, and called upon the Government to take up a strong attitude with regard to it. He spoke for the citizens of Dublin and for the majority of the Corporation, and he appealed to the Government not to allow private Bill legislation to be made the vehicle for the carrying out of a corrupt bargain.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked whether it was in order to apply the words "corrupt bargain" to Members of the House?

*MR. SPEAKER: I did not catch the whole of the sentence. If the hon. Member used the words "corrupt bargain" with reference to the conduct of a Member in this House, he would be out of order.

MR. T. HARRINGTON said he used the words with reference to certain officials of the Corporation sent over here to promote a Water Bill, and who had no instructions to make a bargain and to allow certain clauses to be introduced in a Bill by which they were to get a permanent appointment.

*MR. SPEAKER: I understand that the hon. Member did not apply the words "corrupt bargain" to any hon. Member of the House?

MR. HARRINGTON: No, Sir.

MR. T. M. HEALY: In justice to these gentlemen, may I say that I never saw them before the appearance of this clause. The clause was proposed on my own responsibility, without any communication with them.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) did not deny that the House was in some difficulty. He guarded himself from expressing any opinion on the merits of any part of the Bill. He was not acquainted with its provisions, but his observations would be confined to the general principle which ought to guide the House. There was another point on which he guarded himself from expressing a reasoned opinion. This Bill, as originally introduced, was in the main a Water Bill. By an Instruction passed in the House it became possible for the Committee to make the Bill not only a Water Bill but a Franchise Bill. Whether it were expedient on the ground of policy that Bills dealing with small local matters, such as gas and water, should be capable of this abnormal extension after leaving the House was a question which ought to be seriously considered by the House, but as to which he did not at present offer an opinion. There were precedents for the cause without doubt. Nothing irregular had taken place; whether what had taken place was expedient was another matter, and whether, if the Bill went up to the House of Lords in this shape it would be consistent with the Standing Orders of that House to pass the Franchise Clauses he could not say, but a rumour had reached him that in all probability the principles which governed the conduct of private business in the House of Lords would necessitate some material alteration in the Measure in that House. But he merely mentioned these questions in order to put them aside, because he did not think that they were very material.

As a matter of fact, whether it was right or wrong, whether wise or unwise, the House of Commons had, by an Instruction, he would not say compelled the Committee, but more than hinted to the Committee that it might with propriety introduce Franchise Clauses into the Bill, and it was in consequence of that Instruction, after eight weeks' inquiry, that the Committee did introduce these Franchise Clauses.

MR. HARRINGTON observed that the inquiry lasted eight days, not eight weeks, and that no evidence was given in support of the view of the hon. and learned Member for Louth.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that the evidence which his hon. Friend said was not given occupied no less than 40 pages of the printed proceedings.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that he was only imperfectly acquainted with what took place in the Committee, and therefore he could not attempt to decide between the two hon. and learned Gentlemen who differed upon that point. The broad fact remained that the Committee, after a prolonged inquiry, did think itself more than justified in converting this Water Bill into a Franchise Bill. He did not think the decision come to last week to recommit the Bill to a private Bill Committee must be supposed to convey a suggestion that the informal Instruction of the House was one that ought to be departed from. The question, it seemed to him, was narrowed down to this—what ought they to do in view of the fact that the Committee in making this a Franchise Bill had in two respects exceeded the powers given to them. They had exceeded their powers in respect of Clauses 15 and 23. What course ought the House to pursue in view of that fact? On Friday they had decided that the Bill should be referred to a Private Bill Committee. To require a Private Bill Committee at this time of the Session to go through again all the evidence which the previous Committee had before it with respect to Parts 1, 2 and 4 of the Bill would be really an absurdity. He hoped that in any case the new Committee, by an exercise of their own native good sense, would absolutely refuse to reconsider all the questions arising upon that part of the Bill, and to hear again all the evidence which, at so much cost and trouble, was laid before the previous Committee. The question remained, what ought to be done with respect Part 3 of the Bill? On Friday last a Division was taken upon that point, and Mr. Speaker pointed out with unanswerable force that to ask the Committee merely to regularise Clauses 15 and 23, without giving them power to consider the effect which the alterations which they might make might have upon the general scheme of the legislation in the 3rd Part of the Bill would be to impose upon the Committee a duty which could not be properly and adequately fulfilled. The question now was whether they ought to recommit the whole of Part 3 of the Bill, in order to give the Committee power to rehandle the whole question of the Franchise, or whether they ought to limit the Committee to the consideration of clauses 15 and 23, giving them, at the same time, power to introduce into the remaining clauses such Amendments as followed naturally from the alterations which they were directed to make in Clauses 15 and 23. He advised the House to adopt the second of these courses rather than the first. He did not think it possible for the Committee to go with advantage into the question of the Dublin Franchise at this time of the Session. He regretted that that question was ever remitted to a Committee of that House, but it was so remitted and had been examined by the Committee, and he did not think that its labours should be rendered fruitless unnecessarily, or that its decisions should be traversed unnecessarily. Then he thought the House would be well advised to limit as far as possible the labours of this new Committee, so as to give the Bill some chance of becoming law in the course of the present Session.

MR. HARRINGTON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman proposed to recommit the whole question to the Committee, giving them power to amend or to reject the clauses. If so, he should accept the proposal.

*MR. SPEAKER said that the best course to take in the circumstances would be to withdraw the Motion before the House, by leave of the House, and then to proceed to the consideration of alternative proposals.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HARRINGTON moved :—

"That the minutes of evidence taken before the former Committee on the Dublin Corporation Bill be referred to the Committee to which the Bill is recommitted, and that it be an Instruction to the Committee to take no further evidence nor hear counsel as to Parts 1, 2 and 4 of the Bill."

He said that he understood the speech of the Leader of the House to mean that, when this Bill was recommitted, the Committee were to have power to inquire into the whole question of the inclusion or exclusion of the Franchise provisions. His own object in putting this Instruction upon the Paper was to enable the Committee to reconsider this question. Notwithstanding what had been said by the hon. and learned Member for Louth, he could assure the House that the citizens of Dublin would not consent to break up the arrangement of their wards as regulated by charter for a great number of years, for the mere purpose of engrafting this principle of minority representation upon the present procedure. If that principle was to be introduced, it should be applied all round.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY explained that what he proposed was that the Committee should consider Part 3 of the Bill with the view only of bringing Clauses 15 and 23 into harmony with the Instructions of the House, and of making such alterations in the remaining clauses of Part 3 as might be necessary in consequence.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that he would assent to the right hon. Gentleman's proposal. He had always been in favour of minority representation. He thought it was a sound principle in dealing with a country like Ireland, and would lead to contentment and peace. It was from that point of view that he had made his proposition. He had never communicated with any member of the Dublin Corporation in this matter. They were all either Parnellite or Conservative, and there was not a single man of them who was a friend of his, and he had neither touch nor contact with any of their views, but he thought it was only reasonable that these gentlemen should not be disquieted in the possession of their offices at the moment when a large extension of the Franchise was granted.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND moved to add at the end of the question the words—

"and that they do consider Part 3 of the Bill only with the view of bringing Clauses 15 and 23 into harmony with the Instruction of the House, and of making such alterations in the remaining clauses of Part 3 as in their opinion these changes may render desirable."

MR. HARRINGTON said that the Amendment was precisely the same Amendment as that against which the House voted on Friday night.

*MR. SPEAKER said that, as he thought he pointed out at the time, the words proposed before were practically the same words which appeared in Motion No. 9 on the Notice Paper, and strictly confined Amendments to the two points of abrogating any existing Municipal Franchise and of conferring additional powers on the Lord Lieutenant in respect to the appointment of revising barristers. But when the Committee had amended Clauses 15 and 23, they might desire, though it was impossible for the House to say in what respect, to amend the other clauses of Part 3, in consequence of having amended Clauses 15 and 23, and therefore this Amendment proposed that it should be left to a Committee to consider generally what Amendments were in their opinion desirable in consequence of having amended 15 and 23.

MR. HARRINGTON contended that the Amendment proposed by the Government precluded the Committee from considering the whole question of the Franchise. He thought it was rather unfair that all this controversy should have been raised on a narrow question of order. He need not dwell on the speech the hon. Gentleman the Member for Louth had made, but he hoped the House would note how dearly he loved his enemies. If the hon. Gentleman would only be as generous and as courteous to his friends as he was to his opponents on the Dublin Corporation, he thought he would find himself more in harmony with them. He regretted that he could not assent to this Amendment, as it would prevent him from raising all that which was most objectionable to the citizens of Dublin. He would point out that the Chairman of the Committee personally was against the introduction of the Franchise at all, and, having regard to the fact that no evidence of any kind was offered on these clauses, he could not accept the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman.

*SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said that, having been nominated to act as Chairman of the new Committee, he wished to say a few words. The amended reference was of a very narrow description, and it would have been much more suitable that the Bill should go to the old Committee. At this time of the Session, however, Members were not always present, and as any hesitation on the part of the new Committee might imperil the Bill, they would of course be very glad to do whatever the House directed. He begged leave to point out to the House what mischief might occur if the House departed from the old and well-established order of Private Bill Committees. If Instructions were constantly moved and the scope of Measures enlarged beyond all proportion to what was intended by the promoters, it would amount to tacking in the worst and most exaggerated form, and against that the House had always set its face. He believed this was the first time a Bill which had been passed by a Private Bill Committee in the usual way had been referred back to an entirely new Committee, and he could not but deprecate the adoption of such a course.

MR. HORACE PLUNKETT (Dublin Co., S.) said he understood that on Friday night the Bill was referred without any reservation at all to a new Committee. Consequently, he had received representations from all parts of his constituency—and he believed that the hon. Gentleman who represented the other division of the county had received similar representations—asking him to do his best to take advantage of the opportunity to remedy some very serious grievances that had been inflicted on the county by the Committee. The House would easily understand that the highly-contentious issues that had surrounded the whole conduct of this Bill had inflicted some hardship on those who wished to treat it purely as a business Measure, and to have it discussed on its merits. The hon. Member for the Harbour Division had told the House that this was an attempt on the part of the township he represented to cheat the Dublin Corporation. That he wholly and entirely denied, but he did not wish to characterise the action of the Corporation in this matter. His constituents thought that, by placing upon them an extravagantly high rate in perpetuity——

*MR. SPEAKER: This does not relate to the Amendment before the House.

MR. PLUNKETT submitted that, if the Amendment was carried, it would not be possible for him to move the Amendment in his own name, and it would be impossible to enlarge the scope of the Committee's inquiry.

*MR. SPEAKER said that the remarks of the hon. Gentleman would be in order when he put the main question.

MR. PLUNKETT said he would reserve what he had to say.

Question, "That those words be there added," put and agreed to.

On the Question, "That the Instruction as amended be agreed to,"

MR. PLUNKETT said he was bound to protest in the interest of a large body of his constituents, who would be very seriously injured if they had no further opportunity of resisting the inequitable provisions of the Bill with regard to the water supply.

MR. J. J. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.) said that he would like to point out that, whatever distinctions might be drawn between what had been suggested by Mr. Speaker and the Amendment now before the House, the substantial question put to the Committee was the reverse of that which was put and carried in the House on Friday last. What was done within the understanding of the House on Friday last was to refer the whole of the Franchise Clauses to the consideration of the Committee for them to deal with as they liked. Now that decision to his mind had been practically reversed at the instance of the Government. He really thought that if the Government intended to take that course they ought to have taken it at the beginning, and not have invited the House to reverse on Monday what was carried on Friday.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.), as a Member of the Committee which considered this Bill, desired to explain the position which the Committee actually assumed in dealing with the townships around Dublin. It was quite true that, as the Bill at present stood, while the Corporation were borrowing an amount of £1,200,000 to be repaid in 1944, a perpetuity payment for water would have to be made by these townships. He and other Members of the Committee considered that that was a grievance, but they did not embody their views in any clause or do anything to alter the Bill which was put before them by the promoters. The reason why they took that course was that they considered that when the year 1944 came, those townships could come to the House and propose an alteration in the Scheme.

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the former Committee on the Dublin Corporation Bill [H.L.] be referred to the Committee to which the Bill is re-committed, and that it be an Instruction to the Committee to take no further evidence nor hear Counsel as to Parts I., II. and IV. of the Bill, and that they do consider Part III. of the Bill only with a view of bringing Clauses 15 and 23 into harmony with the Instructions of the House, and of making such alterations in the remaining clauses of Part III. as in their opinion these changes may render desirable.

Mr. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) asked whether the Motion would be in order which stood upon the Paper in his name to the following effect:—

> "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to make provision for placing on the Burgess Roll, in respect of any qualification which enables male persons to vote for an alderman or councillor, any person who but for her sex would be entitled so to vote."

*Mr. SPEAKER said that the remaining Instructions upon the Paper were now out of order.

Mr. W. JOHNSTON: Am I not in order in dealing with the Franchise? I merely propose to give women the same rights as the men.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The Instruction of the hon. Member is not in order after the Resolution which has just been passed by the House.

Mr. JOHNSTON: When shall I be in order? [*Laughter.*] I beg to give notice that I shall raise the question when the Bill comes back to the House.

## DURATION OF SPEECHES.

Major RASCH (Essex, S.E.) gave notice that he would, early next Session, call attention to the duration of speeches in Parliament, and move a Resolution.

## *QUESTIONS.*

### KIRK SESSION OF LAURENCEKIRK.

Mr. J. W. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the Kirk Session of Laurencekirk, on the 7th January 1873, acknowledged holding £734 8s. 6d. for behoof of the poor of the parish, irrespective of sums held for education, also of £300 left to the minister of the parish for the poor of the parish, and have handed none of the revenue to the Parish Council, and only a small part to the parish trust; whether the Kirk Session can evade accounting for and paying the revenue to the legal poor, by stating that their predecessors in office dissipated the fund in the belief that they might lawfully spend the principal; and, whether he will instruct a transfer or cause an inquiry to be made?

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. Graham Murray, Buteshire): I am aware that the Kirk Session of Laurencekirk hold certain sums for behoof of the poor, but I am not aware of their amount, nor can I state whether or not they are held for the legal poor, as this is a question which can only be decided by a legal tribunal. In terms of Section 30 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1894 a committee of management for parish trusts has been formed, consisting of equal numbers from the Kirk Session and the Parish Council; this committee would be entitled to make all necessary inquiry.

## STONE THROWING AT PASSENGER TRAINS (MULLINGAR).

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Westmeath (Mr. J. Tuite), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland can he state the decision of the Lords Justices in the cases of the two young men who were sentenced to three years' penal servitude at Mullingar Quarter Sessions, October 1895, for throwing a stone from a bridge on a passing train, and on whose behalf a memorial was presented to the Lord Lieutenant in March last?

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central): The County Court Judge in sentencing these men to three years' penal servitude expressly stated he had regard to several previous outrages of a similar character in the same locality, and the Lords Justices decided in March last that the law should take its course.

## ENGLISH AND IRISH MAILS.

Mr. S. YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, with reference to the proposed acceleration of the mails by one hour between Euston and Kingstown, whether he is aware of the great convenience it would be to merchants in Belfast and generally throughout the provinces to receive the London mails an hour earlier in the morning, and to be allowed an hour later in the evening for posting replies; and whether, considering that such an arrangement would give two hours longer each day for attending to the letters from London, he would make an effort to have it carried out?

The SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. R. W. Hanbury, Preston): The Postmaster General does not doubt that the receipt of the English mail an hour earlier in the morning and the dispatch of the English mail an hour later at night would be received in Belfast and in Ireland generally with much satisfaction, but no such arrangement would be possible without disregarding other considerations of equal moment, and, as he explained to the deputation from the Irish Chamber of Commerce which waited on him on Friday, he is not in a position to give effect to such an arrangement.

Mr. T. J. CONDON (Tipperary, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the mails between Dublin and Clonmel missed the connection at the Limerick Junction on three successive days during the present week, and that, in consequence, the English and Dublin letters did not arrive in Clonmel until five hours after due time, thereby causing serious inconvenience and loss as well as general inconvenience to the merchants and traders of Clonmel through the loss of a day's post; and, what steps can be taken to compel the Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Limerick Railway Companies to discharge their respective duties to the public for which they are paid from the public purse?

Mr. MICHAEL AUSTIN (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, in view of the fact that for the third time in succession the English and Dublin mails missed the connection at Limerick Junction, immediate arrangements could be made for the running of a special train from Limerick Junction to Limerick when the morning mail train is late?

Mr. HANBURY: I beg to answer the Questions of the hon. Members for West Limerick and East Tipperary together. As I informed the hon. Member for West Limerick last Friday, the question of the connection between the mail trains at Limerick Junction is to be considered in the pending negotiations with the railway company for a new contract.

## CHARGE OF TRESPASS (NEWBLISS PETTY SESSIONS).

Mr. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland, is he aware that at a recent petty sessions at Newbliss a man named Kelly was summoned, at the instance of the Great Northern Railway Company, Ireland, and fined 1s. and the costs of Court, for using threatening or abusive language to a person outside the railway station; was it competent in the railway company to be complainants in this case, where the alleged offence was not committed on their platform, and did not involve any of their porters or other officials; is he aware that the Chairman of the Petty Sessions Court is a shareholder of the Company; and, was it competent for a magistrate having interests in the railway to adjudicate in this case; and, if not, will he have this conviction quashed?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): Kelly was summoned by the Great Northern Railway Company on two charges of trespass and using abusive language. Both charges were proved, and a fine of 1s. and costs was inflicted in each case. It was also proved that Kelly had been repeatedly cautioned against trespassing on the railway premises, and that both of the offences with which he was charged were committed on the company's premises. I have no information as to whether the Chairman of the Petty Sessions Court is a shareholder of the company.

## IRISH COLLEGE, PARIS.

MR. EDWARD M'HUGH (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the Irish College, Paris, about the year 1818, made claims upon the British Government, in virtue of Treaties with France, for large losses and injuries received at the hands of the French Government; that the French Government acknowledged its obligation to make such restitution, and placed the requisite funds in the hands of the British Government; did the British Government withhold payment; and that the claim of the college in 1830 amounted in 23 separate items to a total of £103,604; was this claim ever discharged; and, if not, what has become of the money and its accumulations since the year 1830; and, is there any hope that this claim will ultimately be paid over to the college?

MR. HANBURY: I can find no authority for the statement that the French Government acknowledged its obligation to make restitution to the Irish College, Paris, for losses and injuries received at the hands of that Government, and placed the requisite funds for that purpose in the hands of the British Government. The fact appears to be that by two separate Conventions, in 1815 and 1818, the French Government assigned annuities of three and a half million and three million francs respectively to a Commission appointed to adjudicate on the claims of British subjects for losses sustained in the French Revolution. The Irish College presented a claim for an annuity of £3,398 15s. 2d., which was rejected by the Commissioners. They then appealed to the Privy Council, who endorsed the Commissioners' refusal in 1832. In 1871 the Roman Catholic Bishops and Archbishops of Ireland appealed to Mr. Gladstone as Prime Minister to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into the claims of the college and the state of the Indemnity Fund, and he declined on the ground that full information as to the state of the fund had been given in a Parliamentary Return of that year, that all the alleged diversions of the fund to public objects had been disproved, and that with the exception of £900, the fund was exhausted. This £900 and more was, however, due for various admitted claims. Parliamentary Papers C. 376 of 1871 and 239 of 1872 give full information as to the expenditure of the fund.

## ULSTER FLAX CROP.

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) if he is aware that the flax crop in Ulster is very inferior and in many cases a total failure, and that in several instances, owing to the dryness of the months of April and May, the flax-seed did not grow and the land had to be ploughed up; and (2) whether, having regard to the failure of the flax crop in Ulster, he will cause an immediate revision of rents or some other means of relieving the farmers of that province?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have not before me detailed reports of the yield of the flax crop during the present season, though I believe it is a fact that the crop has been, on the whole, a poor one. The reply to the second paragraph is in the negative. I may add that inquiry has been commenced by the Government into the means best adapted for improving the cultivation and treatment of flax in Ulster. ["Hear, hear!"]

## SALE OF ESTATES (IRELAND).

**Mr. J. P. FARRELL** (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of estates for sale of which petitions are now pending, how long has each estate been in court, the date of the last steps taken in connection with each petition, and how many receivers are connected with each estate?

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR**: I am informed that the number of estates for the sale of which petitions are now pending in the Land Judge's Court is 3,890, and that there is only one receiver over each estate, though the same receiver may be connected with several estates. Information on the other points referred to in the Question could not be furnished without an investigation that would occupy several months. [" Hear, hear! "]

## ARMY COURT-MARTIAL (SERGEANT SAYERS).

**Mr. EDWARD MORTON** (Devonport): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in the case of the recent court-martial on Sayers, until then a sergeant in the 2nd Royal Berkshire Regiment, the Judge Advocate General was informed that Rule of Procedure 82 was violated at the trial to the detriment of the prisoner's case; and, if not, whether the War Office will lay the facts relating to the violation of Rule of Procedure 82 before the Judge Advocate General, with a view to the rescinding of his decision as to the regularity of the trial?

**The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE** (Mr. Powell-Williams, Birmingham, S.): The Judge Advocate General, with all the circumstances before him, did not consider that any injustice had been done to the prisoner, and did not feel called upon to advise any interference with the finding and sentence.

## PURDYSBURN ASYLUM, BELFAST.

**Mr. D. KILBRIDE** (Galway N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) with reference to the contracts for the Purdysburn Asylum, Belfast, whether he is aware that tenders were invited by advertisement in the Belfast daily papers in respect of the last contract; (2) whether he can state if any of the five contractors selected by the medical superintendent of Belfast Asylum to tender for the previous contract, succeeded in the last competition for furniture and bedding, where it was open to all the trade; and if he will state the names of the firms who got the last contract; and (3) whether he will now see that invitations to tender will be published in the local papers in respect of all contracts for asylums in Ireland?

**Mr. GERALD BALFOUR**: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative, and to the second in the negative. I will forward to the hon. Member, if he so desires, a list of the firms selected in respect of the last contract. The general practice of the Board of Control has been to invite tenders by public advertisement for all asylum works, except in some few cases of furniture supplies, and works of a special character. In future, this rule will be enforced in the case of all supplies of furniture.

## WELSH WILLS (TRANSLATION).

**Mr. HERBERT LEWIS** (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether he is aware that the representatives of deceased testators whose wills are written in the Welsh language are now called upon to pay a charge in addition to the ordinary probate fees for the translation of such wills into the English language; and, whether, having regard to the fact that a large number of Welsh testators are unable to speak or understand the English language, and that their wills are for official purposes required to be translated into English, the Treasury will in future bear the charge for translation?

**Mr. HANBURY**: If the President of the Probate Division is prepared (as I understand he is) to recommend that in future the cost of translating Welsh wills should be paid by the public, the Treasury will not raise any objection.

## RHODESIA.

**Mr. WOOTTON ISAACSON** (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the

Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, considering the very small number of 1,700 available in Mashonaland, he will recommend the employment in Rhodesia of porters and police selected from Sierra Leone and other native constabulary forces in West Africa, and especially men who served and native levies in the late expedition to Kumasi; whether he is aware that the Colony of Sierra Leone can furnish trained constabulary members of the late Gambia Frontier Police, besides upwards of 2,000 native porters, without difficulty, for service in Rhodesia, providing the men are led by officers with whom they are acquainted; and whether he will consider the advisability of obtaining reinforcements for the relieving column operating from Beira for the relief of Mashonaland from amongst the Hausas, Mandingoes, and other native levies who have been enlisted in the various constabularies of our West African possessions and of the Royal Niger Company, under their own officers and officers chosen from amongst those selected for service with the special service corps, with the Hausas and native levies in the campaign against Kumasi in 1895.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): As regards the importation of porters from West Africa, I am advised that the step would be useless, as the men could not carry even their own food supply and would have no strength for carrying stores. In West Africa the porters obtain their food supply as they go along. As regards the importation of combatants from West Africa, I am advised that no considerable numbers could be spared, and that there is in South Africa ample material from which to recruit local levies. The hon. Member will have observed that the Cape boys have been doing particularly good work in the present war. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. ISAACSON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that farmers in Natal had suffered very considerably from the want of native labour, owing to that labour having sought employment in the mines?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: That is a totally different Question, and I must ask for notice. ["Hear, hear."]

## ALDINGHAM PARISH SCHOOL, ULVERSTON.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education will he explain why the school managers of Aldingham Parish School, Ulverston, have been ordered to take children into their school from neighbouring parishes, which have sufficient school accommodation for the children in their own parishes, notwithstanding that taking in such children involves the necessity of adding to the staff of the Aldingham School, and the school managers have not sufficient funds to add to their staff; and, if so, whether the Aldingham School managers can be relieved from taking in children from districts outside the parish for which the school was provided?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): The general rule of the Committee of Council is to require all children to be admitted to a school, so long as there is room for them, whether they belong to the parish in which the school is situate or not. Without such a rule the administration of the Education Department would become exceedingly difficult.

## SAVINGS BANK (PROFIT AND LOSS).

MR. T. BURT (Morpeth): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the fact appearing in the recent Return of Profit and Loss on the Savings Banks (No. 254 of the present year), that while there was a loss to the National Exchequer of £22,891 1s. 1d. on the Trustee Banks, there was a profit of £16,983 2s. 11d. on the Post Office Savings Bank; and, whether he will lay upon the Table of the House a Return of the sum paid annually into the Exchequer as the surplus on the working of the Post Office Savings Bank since the year 1877 (when by the Customs, Inland Revenue, and Savings Banks Act, 1877, it was for the first time enacted that such surplus should be paid into the Exchequer instead of forming a reserve fund for the benefit of the depositors), and of the aggregate sum thus contributed by the Post Office Savings Bank to the relief of the taxpayer?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The figures for which the hon. Member asks are already before the House, being given on page 86 of the Report of the Postmaster General for the year ended 31st March 1895 (C. 7,852.)

### ST. PETER'S FREE SCHOOL, CHELSEA.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether application for annual grants has been made by the managers of St. Peter's Free School, Chelsea (Subdivision V. 2); what is the playground accommodation of the school, and how many feet per scholar does it contain; whether the Department will apply to the school the requirements of Schedule VII. of the Code; whether the School Board for London has complained of unequal treatment in the case of Allen Street School, Chelsea (Sub-division IV. 1), which has been warned for unsatisfactory premises; and, whether the Department will enforce the same requirements as to structural suitability on all schools, whether under a school board or under other managers.

SIR J. GORST: The St. Peter's Free School, which has recently applied for annual grant, has been recognised since 1877 as a certified efficient school under Section 48 of the Elementary Education Act, 1876. When such a school applies for annual grant, the Committee of Council treat it as an existing school and do not require complete plans of the school to be submitted to them if, as in this case, the inspector is able to certify that the school buildings are up to the average standard of schools in the district. The Committee of Council are not aware of the exact size of the playground of St. Peter's School, but the inspector has always reported it as being sufficient for the purpose; and in London the requirements of Schedule VII. as to playground are not, as a rule, strictly insisted on. The London School Board have protested against the condemnation of the boys' department of the Allen Street School after the 30th September 1897, and of the girls' and infants' departments after the 30th September 1899. But the Committee of Council see no reason to alter their decision, which was arrived at after a special inspection of the premises by their travelling architect.

### ARTILLERY RANGE (COUNTY WICKLOW).

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he is aware that certain persons representing the Military authorities have been visiting a number of sheep farmers residing on the Imaal Mountains, county of Wicklow, and have informed those farmers that their lands are required for an artillery range; and whether the Military authorities have decided to disturb a number of the inhabitants of the Imaal Mountains, and take their lands for an artillery range?

MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS: The Field Marshal commanding in Ireland has been making inquiries about artillery ranges, and among others, Glen Imaal has been inspected. No decision has been come to on the subject, and if there is any disturbance in connection with a range, full compensation will be given.

### CHARGE OF BURGLARY (ST. HELENS).

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he has concluded his inquiry into the confession of Hugh Beattie, a prisoner at St. Helens on a charge of burglary, who is reported to have stated that 12 months ago a man named Brady was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment for a burglary which he (Beattie) had committed at Rainhill; and what is the result of the Inquiry?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): No, Sir, the Inquiry, which presents several difficulties, is not yet concluded.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS LOBBY (MOSAICS).

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he has been able to come to any conclusion with reference to the completion of the decoration of the Lobby by filling up the vacant spaces on the wall in harmony with Poynter's mosaic of St. George?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I have been in communication with Mr. Poynter, but I have not yet been able to complete the inquiries I thought it necessary to make before coming to any conclusion. The matter shall have the fullest consideration before the next Session of Parliament.

## CONSULATE (NORTHERN SYRIA).

MR. JAMES BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government will consider the desirability of appointing a Consular Officer to reside at Aintah or Marash in Northern Syria, having regard to the disturbed state of that country and the danger of further massacres of the Christian inhabitants?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS (on behalf of Mr. GEORGE CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): The opinion of Her Majesty's Ambassador will be obtained, but in view of the proximity of these two places to Aleppo, where a British Consul is stationed, it seems doubtful whether there are sufficient grounds for such an appointment.

MR. BRYCE asked if the right hon. Gentleman would say whether the Government had any objection to receiving evidence tending to show the great danger that existed in these and other places with which the Consul at Aleppo was not able to deal.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS referred the right hon. Gentleman to the Under Secretary of State.

## SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION (LETTERGUNNELL, COUNTY LONGFORD).

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has had any recent communication with the Education Board with regard to the erection of a school for the use of young children at Lettergunnell, in the parish of Drumlish, county Longford; and what decision, if any, has been come to on the subject?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have not been in communication with the Commissioners on this subject since the 12th June, when I fully explained to the hon. Member, in answer to a Question put to me on that date, the circumstances connected with the proposed school and the decision arrived at by the Commissioners in the case.

MR. J. P. FARRELL was understood to ask whether the right hon. Gentleman had received any communication on the subject.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he had received no communication on the subject.

## CUSTOMS (OUTDOOR OFFICERS).

MR. L. P. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is proposed to abolish the first class of out-door officers of Customs; and, if so, whether it is intended to grant compensation to those officers who entered the Service in 1891, and who, during the next five years, will lose considerably by their promotion to the new grade of assistants of Customs?

MR. HANBURY: The first class of out-door officers will eventually be abolished, when the men who now remain in it (owing to their failure to qualify for the new class of assistants) have retired. An arrangement has been made by which no second class out-door officer of good character, whether appointed in 1891 or later, will receive on entering the assistant class a lower salary than £85 (the minimum of the old first class), provided he has then served not less than eight years, that being the minimum period in which, up to now, any second-class out-door officer has obtained promotion to the first class. It is believed that this will equitably meet the requirements of the case.

## NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS (IRELAND).

MR. KILBRIDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the desirability of having a revision of the examination papers of the National School teachers who presented themselves for promotion at the July examinations 1896; whether he will suggest that the district inspectors of the different districts may assist in the revision; and, whether the teachers who presented themselves for promotion will get the benefit of the good marks for teaching in the schools in connection with their answering in the recent examination papers?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have referred this Question to the Commissioners of National Education, by whom it will be considered at their next meeting to be held on the 11th instant.

## EXCURSION STEAMERS (DRUNKENNESS.)

SIR CAMERON GULL (Devon, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the frequent instances in which persons in a state of intoxication are landed from excursion steamers, and to the fact that the Licensing Act of 1872 does not apply to the licences granted to such steamers, and that there are no provisions in the Act under which such licences are granted dealing with the sale of drink to intoxicated persons, Her Majesty's Government will introduce a Measure to put the sale of intoxicants on these vessels on a more satisfactory footing?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I agree with the hon. Baronet that the law on this subject is in an unsatisfactory state, and I think a strong case can be made out for fresh legislation. He will see, however, that the Government would have some difficulty in proposing any amendment of the licensing laws until the Royal Commission has reported; the most that I can do at present is to bring the matter specially to their notice.

SIR WILFRED LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): Might I ask whether there is any legal definition of drunkenness?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I think that hardly arises out of the present Question.

## MILITARY WORKS BILL.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury—(1) what course he intends to take with regard to the Military Works Bill promised in February last; and (2) whether that Bill contains, in addition to necessary Military works, works such as those for protecting harbours for cruisers, deemed necessary for Naval purposes by the Admiralty?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The answer to the second paragraph of the Question is in the affirmative. With regard to the first paragraph, I believe that the Leader of the Opposition took some constitutional, or *quasi* constitutional, objection to a Bill of this character being introduced so late in the Session, and the Government therefore propose to postpone it till next Session.

SIR C. DILKE: With a view to its passing before the end of the financial year?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Yes.

## QUARTER SESSIONS (LONDON) BILL.

SIR ANDREW SCOBLE (Hackney, Central) asked whether, looking to the urgency of the matter, special facilities would be given by the Government for the passing into law this Session of the Bill for making provisions relating to the offices of Chairman and Deputy-Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions for the County of London?

SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: I am aware of the extreme urgency of this Bill for the carrying on of business of the Quarter Sessions, especially as regards the power which it is desired to take for paying a deputy-chairman in the absence of the chairman through illness and for the payment of a clerk to the chairman. The Bill, as I understand, has been introduced with the unanimous approval of the London County Council, and if I can get an assurance that there is no opposition to it in this House I will use my best endeavours with my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House to secure the assistance of the Government towards its passing.

## CONVEYANCING AND LAW OF PROPERTY BILL.

Order for Second Reading, this day, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

## ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT (1873) AMENDMENT BILL.

Order for Second Reading, this day, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

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## REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Order for Second Reading, this day, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

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## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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## AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS' AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order read for consideration of Bill in Committee.

The following Notices stood on the Paper, on the Order for Committee on the Bill :—

**MR. J. CALDWELL** (Lanark, Mid) : To move :—

"That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to introduce provisions for the relief of the occupiers of lands and heritages other than agricultural lands and heritages."

**MR. J. M. WHITE** (Forfarshire) : To move :—

"That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to introduce provisions for applying part of the funds allotted by the Bill for the purposes of higher, including technical, education."

**MR. THOMAS SHAW** (Hawick Burghs) : To move :—

"That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to provide that in the case of any holding in a crofting parish, the Crofters Commission, in fixing whether for the first or any subsequent time a fair rent for such holding, shall not be entitled to take into account the relief effected by the Act from a proportion of the consolidated rate, poor rate, and other rates there mentioned."

**MR. ROBINSON SOUTTAR** (Dumfriesshire) : To move :—

"That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to introduce provisions for applying part of the funds allotted by the Bill for the purposes of agricultural experiment and research."

***MR. SPEAKER** : The first Instruction to the Committee, which is on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Mid Lanark, that the Committee have power to introduce provisions for the relief of the occupiers of lands and heritages other than agricultural lands and heritages, appears to me to be out of order, as it is altogether beyond the scope of the Bill. The next Instruction, in the name of the hon. Member for Forfar, that the Committee have power to introduce provisions for applying part of the funds allotted by the Bill for the purposes of higher, including technical, education; and the fourth instruction, in the name of the hon. Member for Dumfriesshire, that the Committee have power to introduce provisions for applying part of the funds allotted by the Bill for purposes of agricultural experiment and research—both appear to me to relate to matters foreign to the proposals of the Bill, and they are out of order. The third Instruction, in the name of the hon. Member for Hawick Burghs, that the Committee have power to provide that in the case of any holding in a crofting parish, the Crofters Commission, in fixing, whether for the first or any subsequent time, a fair rent for such holding, shall not be entitled to take into account the relief effected by the Act from a proportion of the consolidated rate, poor rate, and other rates there mentioned, would be a legitimate subject for an Amendment to the Bill. As an Instruction, therefore, it is unnecessary and out of order.

Bill considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

### CLASSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND HERITAGES FOR PURPOSES OF OCCUPIERS' RATES.

As from the fifteenth day of May next after the passing of this Act and during the continuance thereof the annual value of all agricultural lands and heritages in Scotland—

(1) shall for the purpose of the occupiers' consolidated rate leviable by county councils, including the portion thereof leviable under the Public Health (Scotland) Acts, be held to be the

nearest aggregate sum of pounds sterling to three-eighths of the annual value thereof as appearing on the valuation roll; and

(2) shall for the purpose of the occupiers' share of the poor rate, the school rate, and the other rates leviable by parish councils, be held to be the nearest aggregate sum of pounds sterling to three-eighths of the annual value thereof as appearing on the valuation roll, subject to the deductions in pursuance of section thirty-seven of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845.

The expression "agricultural lands and heritages" means any lands and heritages used for agricultural or pastoral purposes only, or as market gardens, orchards, or allotments, but does not include woodlands or land occupied together with a house as a park, garden, or pleasure-ground, or any land kept or preserved mainly or exclusively for sporting purposes. Provided that if any question shall arise as to the lands and heritages falling within the foregoing definition it shall be determined summarily by the sheriff, whose decision shall be final.

MR. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) moved, "That Clause 1 be postponed." There were, he pointed out, five pages of Amendments to this clause, and if this and the other clauses associated with it were postponed, it would facilitate matters. Moreover, there should be more time afforded the people of Scotland for the consideration of the Amendments of the Lord Advocate to the clause. Amendments had been placed on the Paper on Thursday night which materially affected the character of the Bill. It was only that morning that Members had really been in a position to acquaint themselves with the details of these Amendments, and they found that one of the most vital points of the Bill had been materially altered. The question of classification could not be settled in a hurry, and for that reason he proposed that the clause be postponed.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) said he could not accept the Amendment. The main provision of the Bill, the classification of lands and heritages for purposes of rating, naturally took its place in the first clause, and the fact that there were five pages of Amendments down to that clause was a very good reason for proceeding with it at once. Besides, the Amendments he had put down to the clause were circulated amongst Members on Friday morning, and their object was to limit the operation of the clause in a way to meet the views of hon. Gentlemen opposite, as expressed on the Second Reading of the Bill.

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) said the Bill, though exceedingly small and compact, was a complex Bill. It dealt with a variety of subjects. It abolished the Land Tax in parts of Scotland, it did something for the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, it professed to give relief to agriculture in Scotland; but perhaps its most intricate and most important provision was the alteration of the incidence of taxation in Scotland by the abolition of classification, as embodied in the first clause, and most of the Amendments put down by the Lord Advocate referred to that provision. Classification was, no doubt, one of those blessed words which were very desirable, but it was not understood by the vulgar, which most hon. Members were. [*Laughter.*] They had not all been brought up in the same atmosphere as the Lord Advocate, who had, perhaps, "classification" engraved on his heart, and they therefore required some little time in order to arrive at the scope of the alteration which the right hon. Gentleman proposed. The right hon. Gentleman had said, when introducing the Bill, that classification was voluntary; that it operated in one parish and not in another, creating great anomalies, and that unanimity was the ideal to be sought for. And yet the Amendments which the right hon. Gentleman had placed upon the Paper departed altogether from that ideal, and perpetuated the very evil he previously desired to put an end to. ["Hear, hear!"] The Amendments were, in one sense, a recognition of the justice of the arguments used by the critics of the Bill on previous occasions. They had pointed out that this elaborate system of classification in parishes appeared to work well, that those who were subject to it were satisfied with it, that upon it they based the amounts of their rents, and that to sweep it away and establish one form of classification only was a supreme step to take. ["Hear, hear!"] But the Government were now going back on their first proposal. He did not know what had influenced them to make this new departure. Perhaps it was because the abolition of classification would cause an amount of discontent in towns and boroughs when shopkeepers found it meant a considerable increase of their rates. But the new proposal of the Government appeared only on Friday. The result was that many hon. Members had not yet realised what it meant, even if they had seen it, and, apart from that, the people of Scotland should have some consideration shown them in this complicated matter. He therefore hoped that the Government would accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy Burghs.

Question put, "That Clause 1 be postponed."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 76 ; Noes, 116.—(Division List, No. 362.)

The announcement of the figures was received with Opposition cheers.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) moved to leave out the word "May," and to insert instead thereof the word "November," remarking that the longer the evil day could be put off the better.

*The LORD ADVOCATE said the financial year in the county and parish was from May to May, and they ought to follow the metes and bounds of the financial year, and that was why "May" was inserted.

Amendment negatived.

*Mr. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs) moved to leave out the words "next after the passing of this Act," and to insert instead thereof the words "one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight," so that the Act should not come into operation until Whitsuntide 1898. It seemed to him that at this period of the Session the House should decide that the Act should not come into operation sooner than could possibly be avoided. It was clear that the Bill was intended to anticipate to some extent the Report of the projected Commission on local rating. He believed that the object of that Commission would be to ascertain in what proportions local rating should affect realty and personalty as compared with each other. He saw no difficulty whatever in the Commission being set to work at once. Even before the month of May 1898, Parliament might have considerable light thrown upon the whole question. He submitted that under these circumstances they ought to avoid the rash and sudden resolution projected in the hope that prior to May 1898 there would be additional light to enable Parliament, far more readily than it could now, to adjudicate upon the subject.

*The LORD ADVOCATE, in opposing the Amendment, said that, seeing the character of the Inquiry to be made, it might be supposed that Parliament would have the result of the Inquiry and the possibility of legislation before the date mentioned. Meantime agriculture was suffering, and its ills should be rectified at once.

Sir GEORGE TREVELYAN (Glasgow, Bridgeton) said that this was a mere concomitant to the English Bill. In Scotland there were 166 parishes classified. Under the Amendment of the Lord Advocate that classification might continue if certified by him. Therefore in those parishes the money would not go, as in England, to the agricultural population. Most of it would go to the dwellers in houses, and not to agricultural people at all. It was one of the most dangerous doctrines to lay down that such a question could not by industrious men be mastered in the course of a year. He did not think they wanted a Commission at all, but the announcement of the decision of the Government. By May 1898 the Government would be in full possession of all the materials they wanted, and they would then be able to say what they were going to do for the whole of the ratepayers of Scotland who were not agriculturists. By this Bill, in the most random manner, in 166 parishes out of 750, taken merely by chance, in which the urban ratepayers were not a bit more meritorious or had greater claims on the Treasury than in the other 600 parishes excluded, they were to be given something like five-eighths of their rates. This was extremely unjust, and an iniquitous proposal for which no defence whatever had been made. The Bill was for the relief of occupiers of agricultural land and heritages; it was not for the relief of the occupiers of other land and heritages. That alone should be sufficient to make the Government pause. But there was a stronger reason. The Government were going to pick out a certain part of Scotland, and then give an advantage to urban and none, in fact, to rural ratepayers. Before they carried out this operation in such an irregular and sporadic manner there should be a careful examination into the whole question, so that all parts of Scotland could be treated justly and equally instead of by a method for which not one single argument had been advanced.

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 129; Noes. 79.—(Division List, No. 363.)

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON moved to leave out the words "during the continuance thereof," and to insert instead thereof the words "for a period of two years thereafter," so as to limit the duration of the clause, as distinguished from the Act, to a period of two years. He remarked that, when the nature of the proposals made in this clause was considered, and also the nature of the difficulties they were intended to meet, the reasonableness of the Amendment would become evident. The continuance of the Act, by one of the last clauses, was fixed at five years. But why should this particular clause be continued for five years? What they were proposing to introduce by this clause was a complicated system of classification declared to be necessary to meet a case of partiality—assumed and not proved—and which they were told would form the subject of deliberate inquiry almost immediately. Supposing the result of that Inquiry to be—as he had no doubt it ought to be—that there was no such unfairness in the present system as was contended by the Government, and that the hypothesis which was the foundation for this clause was groundless altogether, why should they be bound to keep this new system of statutory classification in existence a single day longer than was necessary? He therefore proposed that, instead of the clause being coterminous with the duration of the Act, the shorter period of two years should be substituted. The Lord Advocate's proposed Amendment to this clause supplied, to his mind, a new and imperative reason why some shorter period than five years should be fixed for the duration of this particular clause. That Amendment seemed to involve a new kind of classification altogether—not a classification of lands compared one with another, but a classification of agricultural relief. If the Lord Advocate succeeded in what he was going to move, there would be three kinds of agricultural relief. Some lands would get the full benefit of the Act, others would get no benefit at all, and the third class would get a benefit which would vary from ½d. to 1s. in the pound. Thus, it seemed to him, they were now asked to give a tenure of five years to agricultural relief varying in different parts of the country, and in no degree commensurate with proved agricultural distress, but dependent on the existence of the present system of classification.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said the argument of his hon. and learned Friend came to this—that, inasmuch as there was going to be an Inquiry, he disliked the continuation for five years of the statutory classification which was introduced into the Bill. The simple answer seemed to him to be that it was not certain when that Inquiry would be concluded and when the legislation that followed upon that Inquiry would be introduced. The injustice under which agriculture, as they considered, suffered cried for remedy at once. If, as a matter of fact, the Inquiry was concluded and legislation followed in a sooner period than five years, then, of course, nothing would be easier than in the Bill in which that was dealt with to sweep away the effects of the present Bill. This was necessarily a temporary proposal, and must come to an end when the operation of the Measure ceased to lie. Therefore he submitted that the hon. and learned Gentleman's argument was not an argument for limiting the tenure of the Bill to less than five years, that being the period taken in the English Bill. As regarded the effect of his Amendment, it was sufficient to say at that point that, inasmuch as the Amendment, so far as it went, was for the maintenance of the *status quo*, there did not seem to be any good reason for limiting the operation to two years instead of five.

MR. CALDWELL pointed out that the Government, after they had introduced this Bill, had found it necessary, upon the eve of going into Committee, to make most substantial changes in this particular section of the Bill. That showed at once that the matter had not been carefully thought out. It showed that if a matter of this kind was to go on without inquiry, and without being able to test the effect of the Bill and of its practical operation in the districts of Scotland, they ought to have a reasonably limited time fixed for giving it a fair trial without committing Scotland to a very lengthy period. Even supposing this Inquiry concluded, and the Committee reporting, what guarantee had they that the Government would introduce the Bill of which the Lord Advocate had spoken with the same alacrity they had shown in this case. The object they had in view in this Amendment was to insure that a certain reasonable time should be given, and the proposal was to substitute two years from the 15th of May next—two years and a half practically. What was there to inquire about, so far as Scotland was concerned? The whole facts regarding the principle and expediency of classification were well-known, and they could not possibly be altered. The Lord Advocate put the whole case of classification upon one particular point, and that was that in the case of agricultural lands they were unfairly treated, because they were assessed at present upon their stock-in-trade instead of, as he maintained, upon their proportionate means and substance. If that was all that was involved in the Bill and in the classification of rates, what was there to take up an Inquiry for any length of time? These were matters which a Committee would be able to deal with in three or four days.

MR. DALZIEL said the Lord Advocate stated that this Bill followed the lines of the English Bill, but here, at all events, it differed, because in the English Bill the first clause represented that "during the continuance of this Act for five years," and so on. The Lord Advocate did not adopt that, but fell back on the expedient of adding a clause at the end of the Bill in which he limited the operation of the Act to five years. He would also remind the Committee that at the commencement of the discussions on the English Bill "during the continuance thereof was inserted," but during the Debates it was pointed out to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that the words were really not necessary, and they were subsequently dropped entirely. He maintained, therefore, that the words were not really necessary. The Act would cease, as proposed, in 1902. In the ordinary course of events he supposed they would have a General Election in 1901, so that the effect of extending the duration of the Bill to five years was to take away from the present Government the responsibility of dealing with the question of rating as a whole unless they happened to get a majority at the General Election. The position of the Government upon this question had been all along that they were going to deal with it. If that was so, then there was no reason why they should postpone this Act until a future Parliament.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said there was one argument used by the Lord Advocate which he should always resent. The Lord Advocate said that this Bill was the complement of the English Bill, and that, therefore, because the Bill relating to rating in England was limited to five years, Scotland should be placed in exactly the same position, for the sake, he supposed, of uniformity. But uniformity, when it was not coupled with any consideration of expediency, was not necessarily a good thing, and he entirely repudiated it being said that because the English Bill did this or that, therefore the same considerations should weigh in the case of the Scotch Bill. He should support the Amendment for two reasons. The first was that he thought the classification proposed in the clause was a bad classification in itself and contrary to the spirit, and, he might almost say, the letter, of the previous statutes which from ancient times had governed rating in Scotland. The principle which governed rating in Scotland was that persons were to be rated according to their ability to pay, and not according to the particular class of property they happened to own. It was perfectly true that in many burghs and districts, where classification had been applied, the authorities had taken a rough-and-ready method of ascertaining ability by reference to the employment of persons. The real principle was that persons should be rated according to their ability to pay. But according to this clause the farmer who paid £2,000 a year of rent and made £700 a year profit would have this relief, while the small shopkeeper in the counties, who often had a difficulty to make two ends meet, would get no relief. That was bad in principle. ["Hear, hear!"] Another consideration which induced him to support the Amendment was that, if this was to be a temporary Measure, it should be as short as possible in order to induce the Government, if possible, to take some trouble to ascertain what was fair and right with regard to Scotland and to put it into law within two years.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he hoped the hon. Member would not press the Amendment. As to what the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy had said, he might state that, though there was a difference in drafting, there was little or no difference in substance between the English and Scotch Bills. In drafting the Scotch Bill it was imperative to introduce the words referred to where they were inserted, because there was a Standing Order which required that the precise duration of every temporary law must be stated in an express provision at the end of the Bill. The point had been carefully considered by the law officers for Scotland.

SIR G. TREVELYAN said the Lord Advocate and the First Lord of the Treasury had minimised the importance of the Amendment. In his opinion, it was one of the most important that could be put before the House of Commons. It was a matter upon which he thought the Scotch Members should give the reasons for their vote; it was a point for which they must strive, and as far as he could see it was the only occasion for saying whether or not they were going to put into an Act of Parliament a declaration that for five years special relief was to be given to agriculture in Scotland. If those words on the Paper went unchallenged, Scotch Members would have so far declared their sanction of the principle that agriculture in Scotland was in such a state, and was likely to be so for the next few years, that special relief ought to be given to it, not for two or three years, but for five years. He should not refer to the past, but confine his remarks to the prospects of Scotch agriculture in the immediate future, and he maintained that they would not be just stewards of the public funds if they voted the proposed relief to agriculture in Scotland. A Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the condition of agriculture, and a large sum of money was spent over it. Were they going to set aside the Reports and evidence of that Commission, so far, at least, as related to Scotland? He maintained that the evidence showed that rent was rising all over Scotland. Before that Commission a farmer of great experience in Fifeshire said—

> "When you find one farm let at £200 of a rise, and the other going to be let at 40s. an acre, and an offer comes in for 50s. an acre, in one week, it is difficult to find a remedy."

Mr. Davidson, a farmer of considerable importance, was asked whether there was still a demand for farms in Scotland, and he replied, "Yes, there was one let in East Lothian the other day, and I understand that the rent is £200 a year higher than before." Taking another part of the country, the convener of the county of Aberdeen and a prominent Member of the County Council, stated in evidence before the Commission—

> "So far as I can see there is very little difficulty in letting all good farms, and sometimes even at a considerable rise of rent, even in these present times."

Lord Aberdeen's agent had stated that within the last year rents had been advancing. He might quote other evidence to the same effect, showing that rents were rising all over the country. *The Times* a fortnight ago published a very interesting account of Scotch agriculture, in which it was said that whilst dire misfortune had fallen on the farmer in the south-west of England and in many parts of Wales, the state of affairs in the north-east of Scotland was probably never more hopeful. Journals in

Scotland had also written in a very hopeful and favourable strain of the agricultural prospects, and on that very day *The Times* had published a succedaneum to its previous account, and spoke of the extraordinary heavy crops for the moment proving a source of weakness on account of the heavy rains, but remarking that the country was in so favourable a condition that, with seasonable weather, Scotland would have an abundant crop. With such a state of the facts, did the Government expect that the borough Members would acquiesce in their constituents being asked to contribute something equivalent to what would be a penny on the Income Tax for five years in order that the tenants of farms that were rapidly rising in value should have five-eighths of their rates paid out of the taxes, which came mainly from the pockets of the urban ratepayers? The present prospects of the Scotch farmers were good, and so were those of the labourer. The labourer now had good wages, and was in every way well off, and nothing was more gratifying than to hear the farmer in Scotland expressing his joy that the labourer had plenty of work. The fact was that prices had come to the lowest point. One of the most important of Scotch products in agriculture was wool, and while in 1894 wool was selling for 7d. a lb. in parts of Great Britain, British wool was now selling at from 9d. to 11d. per lb., and never below 9d. Prices were improving, rents were rising, and labour was plentiful, and in these circumstances—when it was shown, moreover, that agriculture in Scotland was in a better condition than it was in England—they were asked to sanction this relief to the Scotch farmer on the ground of the depressed condition of agriculture.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) was astonished that the Lord Advocate should display such warmth in speaking of the terrible injustice which beset the agriculturists. He had always thought this proposal was a mere matter of expediency and not of justice. The object of the clause was to reduce, first of all, the occupier's rate in the county. Until the passing of the Local Government Act of 1888 the county rate was paid by the landlord, but now one-half was payable by the occupier. The terrible injustice related to the rate imposed on the occupier by the last Conservative Government. The second relief was in respect of the parochial rates. Until the Act of 1845 the parochial rates were payable by the owners, but since the passing of that Act one-half of those rates had been payable by the occupier. Both of the changes had been made by Parliament, and he did not know that there was any terrible injustice unless it consisted in the changes themselves. They were now arguing for limitation; they did not want any hard-and-fast line adopted. The Bill was drawn up, not because Scotland wanted something, but in consequence of the English demand it was necessary there should be a grant equivalent to that given to England. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Bridgeton Division had pointed out that there were not the same conditions in Scotland as in England. Undoubtedly in England, especially in the south and east, there was agricultural depression, but in Scotland the condition of things was quite different. After the Bill was drafted the Government found, from information afforded them by Unionist Members, that the Bill would not do, and that they must modify it. The Amendments they proposed entirely changed the character of the Measure, and all that was asked was that Parliament should not have their hands tied, but if in two or three years they found it necessary they should make another change. Nothing had been advanced by the Government to cause him to dissent from the Amendment.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) did not think the Bill should last a day longer than was necessary, because, in the first place, however loud the cry for justice to agriculturists might be, there could be no doubt that the method by which it was sought to bring about that justice was a wholly indefensible one. Again, the Inquiry into the incidence of local taxation need not be a too long one. The Inquiry was one which should not last for two years, and it was desirable that action should be taken as soon as the Commission reported. If the Government meant to deal with the whole question of local taxation, they ought to do so long before two years had elapsed. The Amendment was one which would be accepted by the great mass of his countrymen, and as such he should give it his support.

MR. ALEXANDER URE (Linlithgow) said that all the facts were known and nothing remained to be done but for the Government to make up their minds as to the proper proportions of local taxation and for a skilled draftsman to frame a Measure. If, on the other hand, it was necessary that a Committee should inquire into the incidence of local taxation, could anyone imagine a better incentive to accelerated action on the part of the Committee than a limitation of the operation of this clause to two years? If the Lord Advocate held the view there was an injustice to be remedied, he had better consent to have this Amendment made part of the Bill.

*MR. McLEOD said the duration of the Bill would bring them up almost to the conclusion of this Parliament, with the result that, before the General Election it would be proposed to continue it in the Expiring Laws Continuation Bill. The effect of that might be that another place would prevent them dealing with the matter in a proper manner.

*MR. ALEXANDER WYLIE (Dumbartonshire) urged that, as compared with other industries in Scotland, that of agriculture was greatly depressed. The opposition of the Member for Bridgeton was not well founded.

MR. CALDWELL mentioned the case of the Bill which a few years ago was brought in for the relief of local rates, the money being, after a year's reflection, given to the establishing of free education, with the approval of the whole of the people of Scotland. They only asked for a reasonable time to consult the feelings of the local authorities. He thought a period of two years would be sufficient.

Question put, "That the words 'during the continuance thereof' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 138; Noes, 81.—(Division List, No. 364.)

MR. CALDWELL moved to leave out the words "and heritages." He said that the object of the Amendment was to place the relief given on the same basis as in the English Bill; and in that Measure it was confined to agricultural land, exclusive of buildings. In Scotland the rental of a farm was placed on the valuation roll as an indivisible whole, land and buildings being taken together. A great many farmers in Scotland made a profit out of summer lettings of their farmhouses; unless "heritages" was excluded from the clause, relief would be given in respect of such houses, as well as of the land with which they were connected.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the words "and heritages" were put in the clause to secure the benefit of the Definition Clause in the Valuation of Land Act, 1884. In this particular there was a necessary divergence from the English Bill. In that Measure the amount of relief given was conditioned by the amount of agricultural land. But in this Bill for Scotland the amount of relief was simply a proportion of the English amount. All that had to be done, therefore, was to see that agriculture was relieved, and that as between different agriculturists the money was fairly divided. As there was approximately a constant ratio between the buildings and the land, a fair division of the relief could be given without separating land and buildings, and thus an expensive inquiry was rendered unnecessary.

MR. CALDWELL pointed out that, if the whole of the sum available were not required, there would be more money available for other purposes.

SIR R. REID objected to the Amendment, because it would make it impossible that any portion of the money would find its way into the pockets of those who were not actually owners and occupiers of agricultural land as opposed to agricultural cottages. One of his complaints against the Bill was that, taking money for agricultural purposes, it did not fairly distribute the money to persons who were suffering more or less from agricultural depression, and he thought the Government Bill was more liberal and fair in that regard than it would be if the Amendment were accepted.

DR. CLARK supported the Amendment, and said he should be curious to see how hon. Gentlemen on the other side who supported a similar Amendment on the English Bill would vote on this one. In the English Bill it was land and land alone they wanted to relieve, and so they kept out buildings—or heritages. Now, in Scotland they were going to relieve both land and heritages. Why not apply the same principle to both countries? They were passing a temporary Measure for the relief of a class, yet that class was exactly the same in England as in Scotland. Another important reason why he supported the Amendment was this—that if they gave this relief to land only, then the class of people for whom he had peculiar sympathy, the small working agriculturist, would get the benefit, whereas at present the benefit, especially in the northern counties, would go to the large capitalists.

Question put, "That the words 'and heritages' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 149; Noes, 70.—(Division List, No. 365.)

Mr. CALDWELL moved, after the word "Scotland," to insert the words "in parishes partly landward and partly burghal." He said that the contention of the Lord Advocate was that rating was to be on the principle of means and substance. It was further pointed out that there were only 158 parishes which were classified, and the right hon. Gentleman explained, as a reason why more were not classified, that there were landward parishes where classification was of no use, they being all of a similar nature. The object of the Amendment was to test these theories. They were dealing with household property and manufactories in the burghs, and with land in the county districts of the same parish. Classification was, therefore, necessary. Landward districts should not have to pay the same rate as in the case of burghs; but the fact was that they were giving relief, not by imposing rates on the different occupiers, according to their means and substance, not on the principle of classification, but giving a grant out of the Imperial Exchequer in relief of rates. Rates were under the control of the landward parishes, and there was no other authority to classify them. There was no injustice in the rates being levied on the occupier of the landward portion of a parish unless they were prepared to introduce a new principle, that of giving a grant in aid to local rates, apart altogether from the question of distress.

*The LORD ADVOCATE could not accept the Amendment. They had not said that the classified parishes exhausted the whole of the parishes in which there was anything else besides agricultural land. They said that in a good many parishes which were not classified there was not the same call as in the case of parishes which were classified. The effect of the Amendment would be to stop the relief of any grant to any parish that was not a landward burghal parish.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. E. ROBERTSON moved, after the word "Scotland," to insert the words "in respect of lands and heritages in the occcupation of the owner thereof." He could not see how the Government could defend the extension of the grant in the case of a landowner who occupied and farmed his own land for his own pleasure. There were a number of cases in which his Amendment would apply which did not seem to him to come within the scope of the Bill. A large portion of the land in Scotland was let out by the owners in grass parks. There were other cases in which the owner had a home farm. It was absurd to say that the home farm of a great landowner was really connected with the agricultural industry. He farmed the land for his own amusement and pleasure, rather than in the way of business; and he did not see how they could justify the giving of public money to the great landowners whose land was occupied in this way. The Government ought to limit their relief to the men engaged in agriculture as an industrry.

The LORD ADVOCATE could not accept the Amendment. He was sorry to say that there were many owners in Scotland who were taking to agriculture as an industry very much against their will. Everyone knew that again and again the necessity had been forced upon owners to take land into their own hands pending the prospect of re-letting. In all these cases the owner was occupier, and paid the full rate; and therefore the Government thought that it was only logical to put him in the same position as everyone else receiving relief.

Mr. R. B. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) did not agree with his hon. and learned Friend the mover of the Amendment. He was interested in developing the system of small holdings, and he should like to see more agriculturists own as well as occupy their holdings. But, as the Amendment would act as a discouragement to any scheme of that kind, he must oppose it. In the rich and prosperous county which he represented farms were easily let, but, if they went to the more distressed parts of Scotland, it was extremely difficult to get tenants. The persons who had farms in their own hands were not the prosperous owners of the rich and fertile parts, but were comparatively poor persons who ought to be assisted.

Mr. T. R. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) also said that he could not support the Amendment. If they were going to give relief to the agricultural tenant, it was due just as much to the man who farmed his own land as the ordinary tenant-occupier. The Amendment would, besides, act as a deterrent to the creation of small holdings.

Dr. CLARK reminded the Government that a pledge had been given that a provision would be introduced into the Bill for the purpose of preventing the relief from going to the Scotch landlords. Now, however, the Government were opposing an Amendment which would prevent the money from going into the pockets of a certain class of landlords. Many of the landlords would not reduce their rents to the market level. They were telling the farmers that they did not want them, that they could do as they did after the war in 1815, and that they could deal with the labourers themselves directly. In fact, they threatened to farm the lands through the agency of their own bailiffs, and to wipe out the farmers. They were trying an experiment, and some of the owners were already finding out that it was not a paying experiment. Be that as it might, he did not think that they ought to aid men who did not reduce their rents. He trusted, therefore, that the Amendment would be pressed.

Mr. ROBINSON SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire) said that he had no particular sympathy with landlords, and that perhaps he should not be sorry if money were diverted from their pockets. He had, however, great sympathy with small holders, of whom there were a considerable number in the county which he represented. They belonged to a class whom it was desirable to encourage in the interests of agriculture and the country. He hoped on this account that the Amendment would not be accepted.

*Mr. McLEOD was in favour of limiting the relief to owners of holdings of a certain size. What was needful in the North of Scotland was that holdings should be of a reasonable size and let at fair rents.

Mr. E. ROBERTSON, in asking leave to withdraw his Amendment, reserved his right to raise the question again on the Report stage. The objections against his Amendment might be met by the introduction of words providing that the size of the holding to which relief was to be given should be limited. He had been influenced to move this Amendment by a flagrant case which had come under his notice. A man who had bought a big estate as a pure speculation, had turned out the tenants one by one. He could not consent to giving public money to men of that kind.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. J. B. BALFOUR (Clackmannan and Kinross) had an Amendment on the Paper to insert, after "Scotland," the words "not situated within any burgh, as defined by the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892." He said that he did not now intend to move the Amendment, as it was put upon the Paper to prepare the way for raising later on the subject of classification, and it would probably have been held that without some such Amendment the subject could not be raised. The Lord Advocate, however, had given notice of an Amendment which, while it did not go as far as he wished, would to a certain limited extent provide for the case of burgh classifications. It might be well, therefore, to wait to see whether it would not be possible to make amendments in the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment, either in Committee or on the Report stage. The Amendment which he had placed on the Paper also referred to the question of accommodation land, because lands within the area of burghs were generally, although not universally, accommodation lands. Seeing, however, that the object which he had in view when he put the Amendment down might now be attained in other ways, he did not propose to move.

MR. CALDWELL moved, at the beginning of the clause, to insert :—

> "In any parish where the value of agricultural lands and heritages as appearing on the Valuation Roll for the year 1895-6 was less than that for the year 1879–80 by more than 10 per cent. and not more than 25 per cent."

The Lord Advocate, he said, based his proposal to relieve agriculture on the ground of agricultural distress, and also upon the ground of just taxation as between one class of the community and another. The Lord Advocate had told them that in Scotland, comparing the year 1879–80, when rents were at their highest, with the year 1893–4, there had been a reduction in rents of 20 per cent. He proposed in his Amendment that relief should not be granted in the case of agricultural lands where the reduction was less than 10 per cent. Twenty per cent. was the average reduction in Scotland, and there had been at least an average reduction of that amount througout the kingdom. His object was that, in all cases where the rent had not been reduced to a greater extent than 10 per cent., the land should not get the benefit of any bonus from the Imperial Exchequer. Why was he of that opinion? Because it was obvious that in cases where the reduction was less than 10 per cent., the tenant was paying far too much rent for his holding. Rents in Scotland were the result of competition, and in consequence tenants often paid more than reasonable rents for their holdings. How could tenants who did that expect to receive any relief out of the pocket of the Imperial taxpayer? But the Lord Advocate would say, probably, that he did not base this proposal to give this relief on the ground of agricultural distress, but on the ground of equity and just taxation between different classes of the community. The Lord Advocate would, no doubt, get up and say that this was a question of rating, and that agricultural distress had nothing to do with it; yet he made agricultural distress the moving power of the Bill. When there was throughout the United Kingdom an undoubted fall in rents of not less than 20 per cent., it was not an unreasonable thing to say that if there was any tenant in Scotland who was paying within 10 per cent. of the rent that was paid for the same land in 1879–80, he was doing so with his eyes open. Why should that man get relief for an act of his own? When he made the offer of that rent for the land he knew what the burdens were, and he estimated his rent accordingly. He contended that where the rent was notoriously within 10 per cent. of what it was in 1879, it showed that the tenant had not been getting that reduction of rent which he ought to, and it showed that the State ought not to interfere. It was purely a question of rent. When the question of agricultural distress was raised, he was entitled to point out that it was not a question of taxation but of rent.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said that as there were Amendments of a similar kind put down by several hon. Members, he should put the hon. Gentleman's Amendment in such a way as not to prevent other hon. Members from moving theirs as Amendments to this one. He therefore put the question that the words "in any parish where the value of agricultural land and heritages" be added to the Bill.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said this was not an agricultural relief Bill, but one for the reform of rating. [*Cheers.*] Considering that the Bill had been approved upon Second Reading, and that he put in the forefront of his speech that it was a Bill for rating reform, the hon. Gentleman would hardly expect the Government to accept his Amendment.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the right hon. Gentleman was very ingenious in shifting as much as he could on to the particular leg on which he desired the Bill to stand. But, whatever the right hon. Gentleman might say, the Committee could not forget that the original purpose and intent of this legislation, both for England and for Scotland, had been professedly to relieve agriculture; and, although from the point of view of the readjustment of the incidence of taxation this Amendment would appear somewhat out of place, yet the rise and fall in the value of the farms had something to do with the other aspect of the Bill. Therefore, on that ground, he hoped a good many of them would support his hon. Friend. The Amendment, however, had certain words at the end of it which he could not support, though his hon. Friend told him they were adopted from the English Bill. The truth was that this Amendment was a very reasonable and moderate statement of the arguments that had been used against the proposals in the Bill. From the first what the Opposition had maintained was, that while they sympathised with the depressed condition of agriculture, they sympathised also with all other trades and industries in the country which were depressed, and they thought that it was unfair, at all events, that those other industries and trades which were grievously distressed and had been for the last 10 or 20 years, should be called upon to pay for the relief of this one particular industry of agriculture, and they had argued with regard to the case of Scotland that there had been no such reduction in rents, and no such distress in agriculture as to justify any extraordinary steps being taken. This view, which had been expressed from the Table at considerable length on the Second Reading of the Bill, had been very remarkably strengthened and endorsed by a Blue-book which had been circulated not many days ago, giving elaborate statistics of the history of the expenditure and receipts on certain great estates during the last 30 or 40 years. Those returns bore out exactly what had been said upon this subject. There was no doubt that 30 years ago rents in Scotland were abnormally high, and therefore they ought not to be accepted as the standard for normal rents in the country. Taking rents as they stood at the present time, farms in Scotland could be let easily, and were even competed for when the rents were reduced 20 or 30 per cent. upon those of 30 years ago. That was borne out by the Return to which he had referred. Rents had been steadily reduced for many years, and now they appeared to be settled to a considerable extent. The hon. Member's Amendment proposed that relief should not be given in cases where the rents had not fallen 10 per cent., and he thought that that was a very moderate demand. He thought that there was nothing to be said against the equity, justice, or the reasonableness of such a proposal. The Bill was open to many epithets, but its original object had been the relief of distressed agriculture, and hon. Members on the Opposition side would continue to regard it in that light. Whilst they admitted the great losses which farmers had sustained, and whilst they admired the way in which those losses had been met, they could not help feeling that other sections of the community had suffered equally. The man with capital got less interest for his money than he formerly received for it, and the profits of trade had fallen. The only redeeming fact was that the wages of the workmen had not fallen. ["Hear, hear !"] But with that exception the profits of all trades had fallen equally with those of agriculture. He did not wish to push this point too far —he did not deny that there was distress in agriculture, but he maintained that other trades had suffered to an equal extent. In these circumstances he should support the Amendment. ["Hear, hear !"]

Sir J. FERGUSSON said that he must protest against the right hon. Gentleman's view as to the sweet reasonableness of this Amendment. He could not see why a farm in a particular parish should not receive relief when the rent had fallen 50 or 60 per cent. merely because the rent of other farms in the same parish had not fallen to such an extent as to effect a reduction of 10 per cent. upon the rents of the whole of the parish. ["Hear, hear !"]

*Mr. ALEXANDER WYLIE said the assertion of the right hon. Member for Stirling, "that other trades had suffered to an equal extent with agriculture," was erroneous, and asked him to specify any leading industry in Scotland which had done so. ["Hear, hear !"]

Sir R. REID said that he entirely concurred with what had fallen from his right hon. Friend the Member for Stirling. His difficulty, however, was to appreciate exactly the meaning of the Amendment and its bearing upon the Bill. The proposal contained in the Amendment was that no farm should receive relief unless the rent had fallen 10 per cent. But why should the farmer be refused relief because his rent had been increased instead of reduced ?

He sympathised with the object of the Amendment, but he thought that it had been drawn in a wrong form. He hoped that the Amendment would be withdrawn, and be reintroduced in an amended form on the Report.

Dr. CLARK said that this point had been fully discussed when the English Bill was in Committee. There could be no doubt that the object of this Bill was to relieve agricultural distress. But were there no other Scotch industries that were depressed? The mining interest of the country had suffered greatly, and by this Bill the burdens upon it would be largely increased. It was clear that the Government did not look on this Bill as one for relieving agriculture. In Ayrshire there had not been the same fall as in the Lothians, because the produce was entirely different, and the distress was not equal in different parts of the country. He supported his hon. Friend on the ground that those who did not require relief ought not to get it.

*Mr. J. B. BALFOUR suggested that the word "case" should be substituted for "parish."

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said he understood the suggestion was that the Amendment should be withdrawn in order that it might be put in the altered form. He did not in that case object to its withdrawal.

*Mr. McLEOD objected to the Amendment being put in any but the original form.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS said this Amendment was the first which raised the distinction of value. If the Amendment were put in the suggested form he should put the question that the words "in any case where the value of agricultural lands and heritages," be added, so that, if carried, it would not preclude further Amendments.

Mr. CALDWELL asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. CALDWELL moved, after the word "Scotland," to insert the words—

> "In any case where the value of agricultural lands and heritages, as appearing on the Valuation Roll for the year 1895-6, was less than that for the year 1879-80 by more than 10 per cent."

Question put, "That the words 'in any case where the value of agricultural lands and heritages' be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 58; Noes, 130.—(Division List, No. 366.)

Dr. CLARK moved, after the word "Scotland," to insert the words "during the currency of the existing leases thereof," the object of the Amendment being to limit the reduction to the present current leases.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY: We have already passed words in the clause implying that this relief would be applicable to agricultural land cultivated by the owner. This Amendment applies only to land let on lease, and I wish therefore to know whether it is in order?

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: I think the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman will require alteration, because it would imply that all lands to which the Bill applies are let on lease. I would suggest that the Amendment should run "during the currency of existing leases of such lands as are subject to lease," so as to show that it is intended to apply only to lands under lease.

Dr. CLARK said he would move the words suggested by the Chairman. At the end of an existing lease the land would fall, of course, into the hands of the owner; and in any new letting the tenant would not get the benefit of the Act, because the amount of the rent depended upon the amount of the local rate. Where local rates were low the rents were high, and where the local rates were high the rents were low. It was, therefore, perfectly clear that the Amendment should be accepted in order to carry out the pledge of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that every effort would be made to prevent the benefit going to the landlord.

*The LORD ADVOCATE said he could not accept the Amendment. It was a fantastic proposal, for it meant that the rating authority would have in every case to consider not only the state of the valuation, but how many years of a lease were unexpired. Another result would be that, in cases were lands were in the occupancy of the owner, the owner would get relief so long as he kept the lands in his own hands, but the moment he let them go he would lose the relief.

SIR G. TREVELYAN thought the right hon. Gentleman had not at all met the point that the relief would go to the landlord at the expiration of a lease. The *North British Agriculturist* had written that the right policy for the Government to have adopted was to have advocated a reduction of the rents on agricultural land on the ground that agricultural land was paying more than its just share of rating; and to have recognised the indisputable fact that on the expiration of leases the benefit of the reduction would be secured by the landlords in the shape of increased rents. That was evidence as to the necessity of the Amendment from practical authorities on the subject.

MR. URE said that if the Lord Advocate was honest in his desire that the full relief should go to the tenant—as no doubt he was—he would accept the Amendment.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: I have great doubts now whether the Amendment is in order, not on the point which has been already raised, but on another point. The Committee have already decided that this clause is to come into operation on the 15th day of May next after the passing of the Act, and during the continuance of the Act certain things are to happen. The effect of the Amendment would be to limit what the Committee has already decided. There is no proof that existing leases would continue for five years during the whole of the continuance of the Act. Indeed, some existing leases might only run for six months. The Amendment is, therefore, out of order.

After the usual interval, Mr. E. R. WODEHOUSE (Bath) took the Chair.

MR. CALDWELL moved to leave out Sub-section (1). He said that when the Unionist Government in 1889 introduced the Consolidated Rate Bill they had regard to the fact of what had been the incidence of taxation at that particular time, and they took into consideration that they were dealing with the management of the county rate which had up to that time been levied entirely upon the owner. If the contention of the Lord Advocate had been a sound one, that rate should be levied according to means and substance. Why was it that the Unionist Government thus departed from that principle when they were introducing this new principle of taxation in counties? They had before them the principle of classification which existed in the case of the poor law and in the case of the public health, and nothing was more simple than for them to introduce the principle of classification in the counties in the same way as it existed with regard to these other rates in the counties, if the principle of means and substance was a proper method of rating. If they were going to rate a parish they rated it according to its annual valuation as a whole. They took that as the subject of rating, and then they rated every individual occupant of any part of that parish according to the valuation of the portion he occupied. They did not rate according to the uses to which a particular property was put, or to the income which any man derived out of his use of the property. The result was that they could not, that it was impossible to approach or anything like approach, the question of means and substance when they were going to deal with taxation. The moment they departed from the principle that they took the valuation of the district or county as a whole and assessed each man according to the portion of the parish he occupied, they got into inextricable confusion. They never could introduce into the case of the county the particular uses to which a man might apply any particular portion of the rateable area which he occupied. All the matters that preceded the Act of 1889, such as the Lord Advocate had referred to, took place before they drew out the Local Government Bill at all, and yet, in the face of all these things upon which the Government had relied as justifying the present Measure, they did not give effect to them, but gave effect to the present principle upon which they were insisting. Why had there been this change of front on the part of the Government for the settlement which they themselves made so recently as 1889? What they were asked to do was entirely to change the legislation and the principle of valuation which the Unionist Government themselves adopted in 1889. He thought he could supply the reasons for the action of the Government in 1889 and the actions of the present occupants of the Treasury Bench. In 1889 the Unionist Government had a declining majority in the country. They were then coming near the time of a General Election, and when a Government was in a decline and coming near to a General Election they had to be exceedingly careful, in meeting their constituents, as to the proposals they made. The then Unionist Government would not have dared to have brought in such a Bill as the present. It was only brought in now because the Government felt they had got a majority of 150 and that they had five more years, and that accounted for the period of five years in the Bill in which they could enjoy uninterruptedly the sweets of office without anyone calling them to account for this particular revision. The county rates before the Act of 1889 came into operation were levied and paid by the owner. The Act of 1889, introducing the consolidated rate, laid upon tenants a burden which they had not to pay before. If the rate had been oppressive to the tenants, who imposed the burden upon them? The Unionist Government had imposed the burden upon the tenant or occupier. It did not exist in 1889. Again, who was going to get this alleged relief? Not the tenant. ["Hear, hear!"] In the end the landlord would get the benefit. For it was in the course of things that, if they relieved a tenant of certain obligations attached to his occupation, the landlord would make up for it in increased rent and thus secure the benefit. If the rates were reduced, it was pretty certain that the abatements of rent by the landlord would be less than they otherwise would be, and in this way again the relief would go to the landlord. However, his main consideration was that, a sum of money having been taken by the Government for allocation to Scotland, the representatives of Scotland were entitled to see that it was applied according to Scotch opinion and needs. He begged to move the Amendment that stood on the paper in his name—namely, that Sub-section (1) be omitted from the Bill.

*The LORD ADVOCATE said he thought he might be relieved from answering the hon. Member for Mid Lanark in so far as his speech had been a Second Reading speech, because it must be perfectly obvious to the Committee that this clause was the first clause in which the general purpose of the Bill was put into expression, and the general purpose of the Bill was the relief of certain rates. He was not going to argue the propriety of giving the proposed relief under the Act. The only point that might be properly argued on the Amendment, was whether the particular rate specified in the sub-section was a rate that ought to be relieved. He contended that it was. The argument of the hon. Member was reduced to a very narrow compass, for it was to the effect that, because the Unionist Government did not deal with this consolidated rate in 1889, because they did not at that time introduce a compulsory system of classification, therefore they should not do so now. The hon. Member was not quite accurate in telling the Committee that prior to 1889 all the county rates were payable by the owner alone, because he had forgotten the road rate, because it was leviable, half upon the owner and half upon the occupier. The road rate, which was introduced in 1878, was part of the occupier's consolidated rate. The point was whether the consolidated rate should be relieved or not, and the consolidated rate included the road rate. The reason why the Government did not deal with the matter in 1889 was because at that time there had not been this project of rating reform brought forward; and it was certainly a very extraordinary thing to say, that because the Government did not introduce a good reform in 1889 they ought not to do so now. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Mr. McLEOD pointed out to the Lord Advocate that there was a great difference between the position of the occupier in the parish and in the county. He had recently read a book which he regretted he had not with him—the Official Guide of the Conservative Party—in which the contention was that, instead of the occupier paying the half in the county he was, as a matter of fact, not paying more than the third. In the county, therefore, the position was entirely different from the parish where rates were equally divided. He contended that the rates which fell upon agricultural occupiers were very light indeed, except in a few of the more northern counties. He thought that what applied to a parish did not apply to the counties, therefore, in order to do anything like justice, they ought to have an entirely different classification. There was another point to which he wished to refer, and that was that the agricultural occupier was only called upon to pay rates for those particular objects for which he received benefit, such as the road rate. No class received greater benefit from the road rate than the agricultural occupier, and he contended that all that ground also there ought to be an entirely different treatment for the county as compared with the parish. So far as the county was concerned, there was no grievance whatever. For these reasons he should support the Amendment.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he rose for the purpose of eliciting information, and he was not going to make a Second Reading speech. What he wanted to put to the Lord Advocate was, assuming that the Public Health rate as now classified, was that classification abolished by the Bill as it stood? Was it or was it not abolished by the Bill? Why did it not apply in the case of agricultural lands?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said the answer to that was that the portion of the rate was levied in the same manner as the Public Health rate. Where there was no classification there was no classification. The rate was levied as if there was no valuation. He should say more about this when he came to his Amendment. This did not apply to the Public Health rate, but his hon. Friend, would see that the poor rate was different.

Question put, "That the words 'shall for the purposes of the occupiers,' stand part of the Clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 142; Noes, 67.—(Division List, No. 367.)

MR. CALDWELL moved, in Sub-section (1), to leave out the word "consolidated." If that Amendment were carried he would move as a consequential Amendment the omission of "including the portion thereof leviable." The effect of the Amendments would be to exclude the consolidated rate from the operation of the sub-section. In this rate was included the cost of the maintenance of roads, and there was no reason why the occupier should be relieved of five-eighths of the rate of which he got almost the sole benefit. He contended that the relief in this case would eventually find its way to the pockets of the landlords, for the rents would go up as the rates went down. The practical effect of the Amendment would be to limit the sub-section to assessments under the Public Health Act. He admitted that in regard to that rate there were anomalies which ought to be removed; but he strongly objected to the proposed reduction being applied to the consolidated rate, which would practically enable the landlord to get additional rent at the expense of the Imperial rates.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said the reason why the Government proposed to apply the sub-section to the Consolidated rate was the general reason that, as between occupiers and occupier they thought it unjust that agriculturists should be rated at the full amount, and the particular reason that they could see no difference between the Consolidated rate and any of the other rates.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN hoped his hon. Friend would not press the Amendment. He thought there was a great deal in what his hon. Friend had urged, but if the Committee went to a division they would be only repeating the decision they had already given on the Motion to omit the sub-section.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CROMBIE moved, in Sub-section (1), after the word "Acts," to insert—

"in so far as the amount per pound of that rate does not exceed the amount per pound at which it was levied during the financial year ending the fifteenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said the Amendment had been moved in a very fair spirit, but it was not in accordance with sound principles. There were two principles running side by side in this Bill. [*Opposition cheers.*] They contended that realty was unduly pressed in comparison with personalty, and where the State made a grant from the Imperial Exchequer, it was right to give it to the person who had borne most of the burden; that was why the grant was given in the way in which it was given. He might remind hon. Members that the proposal was the same in the English Bill. He could not consent to the Amendment.

MR. J. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) noticed the ingenious way in which the Lord Advocate admitted that there were two entrances to the burrow. They must bear in mind that they were not at the end, but at the beginning of inquiry. There was a strong reason for expediting inquiry, and that was that the greatest objection to the whole scheme of aiding local rates out of Imperial grants was that it had a tendency to diminish the interest in economy. It destroyed local responsibility to make the locality see that they had the national ratepayer to fall back upon. It would be very hard on those who would have to bear the additional burden. He did not agree with the Lord Advocate, and he hoped his hon. Friend would take a division on the question.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN took the same exception to the Clause. The Committee was now dealing with a fixed sum. In the case of England the sum required was to be adapted to the requirements of the case, but when they got a little further on in the discussion they would have to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the distribution of that sum had been so nicely calculated that this Amendment would make no difference as to the way in which the money was to run out. Supposing, however, the rating expenditure of the parish rose in the course of five years, how would that money be met? Was it not desirable to stereotype the amount of the expenditure incurred during the past year in order that the financial effect might be the same? There was obviously a considerable chance of a deficit or a surplus unless it was carefully managed, and therefore the Amendment was a perfectly sound and reasonable one. It was true that a similar arrangement was not accepted in the case of the English Bill, but the right hon. Gentleman could not expect them to be bound by the English Bill, seeing that they voted against this proposal in it. He and his hon. Friends must again support this proposal, that there should not be a varying amount of assessment to be dealt with, but that it should be estimated on a stereotyped figure of the past year.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the amount of the Government grant was stereotyped under Section 2, and would not be affected by the amount of the rate. The effect of the distribution of the rate would be the same as in the English Bill, and as between the occupier and one kind of property and the other that was fair.

MR. J. COLVILLE (Lanark, N.E.) supported the Amendment, and protested against the clause as it stood. In Lanarkshire and Ayrshire the miners were at present suffering from serious depression in the coal trade, and unless this Amendment was accepted any increase in the rate would simply impose additional burdens on these poor men.

MR. CALDWELL, dealing with the argument that realty paid too much in comparison with personalty, asked to whom realty belonged? It belonged to the owner, and, unless the Government were prepared to say that the rates were borne by the owner, he did not see how the Government could say that the rates were paid by realty. The rates referred to in this clause were the occupiers' rate, and that was a rate paid out of the labour and industry of the agricultural tenant. He understood that the object of the Bill was to relieve agriculture, but he did not understand that the object was to impose increased taxation on occupiers of non-agricultural property. That was what the Bill did, and the Amendment made sure that while giving relief to the agricultural tenant they did not impose an additional burden on the other non-agricultural tenants in the county. Rates were an increasing quantity in every community, and it was not fair that the tenants of dwelling-houses should be compelled to make up for the five-eighths reduction of the agricultural rate.

*MR. McLEOD said that in his constituency, if this Amendment were rejected, the burden of any new rates would have to be borne mainly by poor farm labourers, small shopkeepers, and fishermen. The larger agricultural tenants, who would receive a considerable amount of relief under this Bill, would pay nothing like the same proportion of new rates. It would be very unjust to render it impossible for any increased rate to fall with anything like due incidence upon large agricultural tenants who were capable of paying the burden. He hoped, therefore, the Amendment would be accepted.

MR. T. SHAW hoped that the Lord Advocate would reconsider his decision. It was admitted by the Government that, when there was an increase in rates, that increase would be borne in a larger ratio by the non-agricultural occupier. Whenever a subsidy was given from the Treasury in relief of rates, the rates increased as surely as night followed day. Would it not be wise to accept a moderate amendment of this kind, which would prevent friction in parishes? If the cast-iron rule which the Bill as it stood would establish were adhered to, there would be occasions in nearly all parishes where class would be set against class. In many counties in Scotland there were three classes, the agricultural, the mining, and the fishing. The first of these would of course vote with the greatest alacrity for any increased expenditure, knowing that the burden would be borne by the two other poorer classes. The position of the agriculturists would in fact be that of gamesters playing with loaded dice.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY remarked that, if they were to accept this Amendment the Government would not only be modifying the Bill, but abandoning every principle upon which the Bill was based. The hon. and learned Member had pointed out that, if the rates should increase after the Bill had passed, the increase would fall unequally upon different classes of property, and that land would suffer from the increase in a smaller proportion than other kinds of property. That was perfectly true, but it was only the corollary of the system of classification which had been adopted in Scotland for many years.

MR. T. SHAW pointed out that the Amendment referred to the First subsection of the clause, which would chiefly affect county rates, which were not classified.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that the question of area was irrelevant to the general argument, which was founded upon this, that both in justice, according to the Government's view, and in law, the principle of classification was an admitted principle in Scotland. The Government held, as the law did, that agricultural land ought not to be rated at the same rate as other classes of property; and when the hon. and learned Member stated that to establish this difference of rating was to introduce a principle likely to cause constant friction and heart-burning between different classes of the population, he would point out that the Bill was not responsible for that consequence, if it should be found to exist, but that the existing law of Scotland was responsible. The Government held that the present principle of classification as between land and other classes of property had long been recognised as unjust, and that that injustice ought to be put an end to. They also held that this was a convenient time for putting an end to it, because that could be done now without throwing any additional present burden upon any other class of the community. They held further that the broad principle of classification as between agricultural land and other kinds of property was recognised so completely in the Scotch system of rating and so clearly also in the English system of rating that they were amply justified in making a general rule for the whole country. Holding these views, the Government could not assent to the proposal that the principle which they had adopted should not apply whenever any increment of rating was imposed upon a parish.

SIR G. TREVELYAN said that, so far from classification being completely adopted in Scotland, as the right hon. Gentleman had declared, only about one in five parishes had adopted it. [*An* HON. MEMBER: "Why?"] Well they knew their own business best. ["Hear, hear!"] Since the Parish Councils had been adopted what had been the case? If he was not misinformed, about eleven parishes had abolished classification, and some eight or nine had adopted it. Now, in a country where for half a century every parish parochial board had been allowed to adopt classification and only one out of five had adopted it, in a county where since the vote had been free and universal other parishes had abolished classification—he must remark that the right hon. Gentleman was not well informed in saying that classification was completely recognised in Scotland.

MR. BUCHANAN illustrated the working of the provision in a parish consisting of, say, 100 agriculturists, 100 villagers, and 100 fishermen. At the present moment the fishermen along the coast of Scotland had to pay road rate from which they practically got no benefit whatever. In this respect the fishing community especially had a great grievance. Under the proposal of the Bill the road rate was to be classified in future; the agricultural tenants were only to pay upon three-eighths of their valuation, and if any increase in the road rate should take place, in this particular parish, where two-thirds of the inhabitants already derived no benefit from the road, they would have to pay more than their full proportion of the increased rate. This was an obvious injustice, for which surely it was the duty of the Government to devise a remedy.

MR. E. ROBERTSON commented on the statement of the First Lord of the Treasury that the principle of classification was in law and in fact recognised in Scotland. The principle of classification in so far as it was recognised was a classification of all interests; but the classification which was now advanced was a classification between agricultural land and non-agricultural land only—a totally different thing; and not only so, but any classification now recognised, instead of being perpetuated, as the right hon. Gentleman said, was in great part abolished by this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman, without intending it, had conveyed a false impression as to the relation between this new classification and the classification with which Scotland was familiar at present.

*MR. SOUTTAR said that in his own county of Dumfries-shire there were men who would benefit to a certain extent by this Bill, but they were the wealthy men of the county. He had also a large number of his constituents who were quarrymen, miners, and fishermen, poor men who had a hard struggle for existence. Now these poor men would have to pay the rates of the rich farmers; and here was a new and additional burden which was being put upon the poorest class of the community. If a road was built for the benefit of the farmers, the fishermen and the quarriers and the miners would have to pay a considerable proportion of its expense. He could not see why the Government should not accept this Amendment. He would in the circumstances ask the Government to reconsider the matter, seeing that this was only a temporary Measure, and that at the end of five years if they found that the Act did not work well in respect of the point now raised, the Government might set the matter right, if necessary, when a continuation Bill was brought in at the expiration of the present Bill.

SIR R. REID said that he entirely agreed with what had fallen from the hon. Member for Dumfriesshire on this subject. The Amendment had brought to light very strongly the principle that underlay this Bill. If the Government had brought forward a Measure that would have thrown the increased burden of the rates upon those who were able to bear it, he should have been disposed to have supported it; but unfortunately under the present Bill the burden would be thrown upon those who were least able to bear it. Under the old Scotch method the rates were so apportioned that the burden was thrown upon those who were able to bear them, but the Government now appeared to have assumed that the agricultural interest was a poor one, and that all the other interests were wealthy ones. He thought that it was a great pity, that the Government did not reconsider their position in reference to this matter. ["Hear, hear!"]

DR. CLARK said that it was undoubted that under this Bill the rates would be considerably increased, and therefore it was most necessary that care should be taken that they should be properly apportioned in the future. A large portion of agricultural land in Scotland was held by rich farmers who occupied from six to 20 farms, and who paid from £2,000 to £4,000 a year rent. It was these people who would be relieved from rates, while the poor fishermen's and quarrymen's villages would have to make good the deficiency. He was glad to see rates increased, because it showed that the locality was being developed, and that greater comfort was being enjoyed. He believed that the rates ultimately came out of the pockets of the landlords, but at the same time it was necessary that the burden should be fairly distributed among the ratepayers.

*MR. McLEOD, in reply to the statement of the First Lord of the Treasury that the cost of construction of new roads fell upon owners only, said that under the Local Government Act of 1889, the burden of maintaining the existing roads and constructing new roads, was thrown upon the landowners and occupiers equally.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 157.—(Division List, No. 368.)

*MR. McLEOD moved to leave out the words "three-eighths" and to insert instead thereof the words "one-half." The object of the Amendment was to make the classification one-half instead of three-eighths. By far the heaviest county rate was the road-rate, the incidence of which fell more heavily on the poor and sparsely populated counties than the richer counties. His Amendment would have the effect of making a saving on the aggregate sum which could be applied to increasing the grant to the northern counties, and it would also bring the Bill on a line with the English Rating Act.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he could not accept the Amendment. The three-eighths classification brought very much the relief which was as a rule given in the classified parishes under the old classification, for although the classification varied in certain particulars, they had this in common—that they put agricultural land at the bottom of the list. The three-eighths, moreover, was conditioned by the money they had in their possession to spend under the Bill.

SIR R. REID, in supporting the Amendment, said it was extraordinary and unfair treatment of Scotch rating to classify proportions not according to the intrinsic merits of the parts, but because the particular proportion happened to suit the exigencies of the English Bill.

DR. CLARK said one-half of the county rate, poor rate, school rate and the rate levied by Parish Councils would be payable by the occupier, but the larger proportion, at least two-thirds and in some counties three-fourths of the rate, would be payable by the owner, and all the occupier would pay would be one-fourth or two-fifths of the rate. In 1889 there was placed on the owner a consolidated rate equal to what the entire rate had been on an average of ten years, and now this consolidated rate was all that was required beyond that. So the owner paid his own consolidated rate, and paid one-half of the new rate. Let the money that would be available be used in the counties where it was required and not in all the counties alike, whether required or not. They desired that this proportion should be limited so that there might be more money for other purposes under the Act.

*MR. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) said he felt somewhat embarrassed by the double barrelled character of the Bill as explained by the Lord Advocate. It was all very well to contend at one moment that the Bill really aimed at readjustment of the rates, and at another that its motive was the relief of agricultural distress. With regard to the former contention he would simply say, with deference, that if the Bill was intended to effect a readjustment of the rates as between realty and personalty such a reform should not be sought by way of subsidy from the Imperial Treasury. The Lord Advocate proposed to allocate the sum of £192,500 to the relief of agricultural distress. If the Amendment were carried, £38,500 of that sum would be released, and might be devoted to some other purpose. As an inducement to the Lord Advocate to accept this Amendment he would like to point out that it was not necessary to deprive agriculturists of this sum at all. So far from that being the case, it would place at his disposal something like an effective sum for the alleviation of the congested districts in the Highlands. The Lord Advocate, in his Second-Reading speech, in substance, told the House that the gift of £15,000 to the crofters in the Highlands was so inadequate that it was proposed to appropriate it merely as a sort of a nucleus of a fund which was some time or other to mature, and come into operation when the Government had created the authority by whom it was to be administered, and had made up their minds as to the purpose to which it was to be applied. If the Lord Advocate really meant to do any good to the crofters in the Highlands he ought to be glad that this opportunity had been afforded him of swelling the sum of £15,000, and of so increasing it as to make it, at least approximately, adequate to the purpose for which it was intended. If they were going to endeavour to do as much for the agriculturists of Scotland as had been done for the agriculturists of England, then this Amendment ought to be accepted, for, as far as there could be given to the agricultural occupier in Scotland any equivalent to the gift to his rival in England, it would be found in the limitation of his relief to half the rate that was now payable by him. Another reason which ought to operate in favour of the acceptance of the Amendment was the much greater ease in calculating the changes in the rates which the Amendment would insure as compared with the complicated calculations rendered inevitable by the proposal of the Government.

MR. WHITE said that undoubtedly the low-priced land had suffered most, and yet the cost of labour and of fertilisers was not much less than it was on dearer land. For example, land that was worth only 10s. an acre required very nearly as large an expenditure on it as land worth £2 an acre. Then again, this cheaper land was generally furthest away from the populous centres, and this Bill did not take sufficient cognisance of the fact, that while the price of agricultural produce had gone down, the rates for bringing that produce to markets had not gone down. This was shown by the fact, that if one had invested say, £100,000 in railway shares 15 or 16 years ago, and had also invested £100,000 in land at the same time, while the £100,000 in land would have been worth now, only £60,000 or £70,000, the £100,000 in railway shares would have been worth double that amount.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS reminded the hon. Member that he was now discussing an Amendment standing in his name which might never be reached. The question he had put from the Chair was that three-eighths stand part of the clause.

MR. WHITE said he was endeavouring to show that this low-priced land had suffered most, and that they should have a graduated scale of relief for that reason. He thought he had put before the Committee a fair statement of the case.

*MR. WYLIE said the object of his Amendment, and the three subsequent Amendments which stood in his name, was simply to give practical shape to his recommendation on the Second reading to double the amount which the Lord Advocate proposed to apply specially for the Highlands and Islands. The total agricultural occupiers' rate in Scotland was £308,000. Of that it was proposed to relieve the occupier by five-eighths, equal to £192,000—he was speaking in round figures—still leaving to the occupier £115,000. If the Amendment he had put down were accepted, the grant in aid would be reduced to £173,000, and £19,000 would be left to be added to the £15,000 which had been set aside for the Highlands and Islands. He was quite sure that the farmers who were occupiers of agricultural land, and who were going to be relieved to this very large amount of five-eighths should be quite willing that this sum of £19,000 should be added to the £15,000 already proposed to be appropriated to the Highlands and Islands. The Highlands and Islands were suffering from the agricultural depression to a much greater extent than the lowlands, and even than some of the worst districts in England, as might be proved by the comparatively large decrease in population. £15,000 was therefore a small sum for the various purposes to which it was to be applied in the Highlands, and it would be a paltry sum to administer. If the sum was increased to £34,000, it would be a reasonable amount, and much really practical work might be done with it to develop and benefit this part of Scotland. ["Hear, hear!"] Several hon. Members had suggested various sums, ranging from £20,000 up to even £200,000, and he thought the amount of £34,000 which he suggested would be a fair compromise. While he wished to pay the Lord Advocate a high tribute for the skill and ability he had shown in framing the Bill, and to thank him for introducing into it the beneficent principle that the prosperous parts of the country should assist the poorer and weaker parts, he regretted that he had not had the courage to apply the principle a little further and give them more than the bare £15,000. Seeing the general acceptance the principle had received in the House, he thought the Lord Advocate might have made the grant to the Highlands and Islands £30,000 at least. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give this matter further consideration, and by increasing the grant even still further improve an excellent and useful Bill. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. CALDWELL said the effect of the action of the Government by stereotyping the rate over an average of ten years had been to put a new rate, and a heavy rate, too, on the occupier which was formerly an owner's rate, and which they now placed under the consolidated rate in this case. He asked upon what principle the Government proposed to give such a large amount of money to the agriculturist in Scotland, and to apply so little comparatively to other purposes. In England the agricultural tenant paid all the rates, and the Government were going to relieve him to the extent of one-half. But in Scotland no occupier paid more than one-half, the other half being paid by the landlord, so that by this Bill the Scotch tenant would be placed in a more favourable position in this respect than the English tenant. This Amendment provided that the agricultural tenant was only to pay half the occupier's half of the rate; that was to say, the tenant would pay one-fourth of the total rate. He would, therefore, pay one-half of what the Government thought the English tenant ought to pay. The Amendment treated the Scotch agricultural tenant in the most liberal manner, and the effect of it would be that money would be left at the disposal of the Government to be devoted to other and more necessary purposes.

*MR. McLEOD thought that, after what had fallen from the hon. Member for Dumbartonshire, the Lord Advocate might very well reconsider his position in this matter. There was a considerable grievance between the northern and southern counties, and that grievance would, to some extent, be redressed by the adoption of the Amendment. As the Bill now stood, the bulk of the relief in the Highlands would go into the pockets of a few pluralist farmers, while the small agricultural occupier would not get more than two or three shillings per annum. He earnestly appealed to the Lord Advocate to modify the present arrangement.

Question put, "That the word 'three-eighths' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 152; Noes, 64.—(Division List, No. 369.)

*Mr. Wylie.*

*MR. T. SHAW moved in Sub-section (2) to leave out the words "poor rate." He argued that there was no occasion whatever in the present state of affairs why the Government should attempt to inaugurate a system of national poor rate in Scotland with all the disadvantages resulting from a lack of local control and possible extravagance—a system which had been condemned as unsound by all financial writers. Every student of recent Scottish finance had been struck by the incidence of the police rate. In aid of that rate there had been large and increasing subventions given by the Treasury, but Scotland was not a penny the easier on that account, because year after year, as the subventions had increased, year after year the cost to Scotland had increased in a similar ratio. Surely it could not be depended on as a matter of sound finance that the British Treasury should not be represented in the administration of these local funds. There would be no representative of the Exchequer in the administration of the money by the parish councils. In the case of the educational rate, the Treasury was protected constantly by the action of the inspector and by the constant supervision of the Education Department. But the same analogy did not hold good with regard to the poor rate; the Exchequer had to pay money in relief of disbursements by the parish councils in respect of the poor rate, and it was to have no control. The result would be that, whereas the expenditure of the parish councils was already growing, with the new subvention the parish council expenditure would increase in a greater proportion than ever. The Scottish Members must, therefore, take the first opportunity of protesting against an innovation in the system of Scottish rating in the direction of establishing what was universally condemned by sound writers of finance—a national poor rate.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he did not complain of the temperate way in which his hon. Friend had stated his case, but it only served to accentuate the difference between the Government and the Opposition on this Bill. The view of the Government was that this Bill in no sense inaugurated a system of national poor rate. By the Bill they were putting agricultural land in its proper place in respect of local rating. The effect of that was to make a hole in the local Exchequer, and this hole was being filled up by a contribution which was partially owing by personalty to realty. By the principle of the Bill as it stood there was no reason to make any distinction between the poor rate and the other rates paid by occupiers. In respect of this rate, as well as the other rates, agricultural land ought not to be rated on the full value, but it ought to take its classified position, which was the effect of the Bill.

SIR G. TREVELYAN said that the right hon. Gentleman had passed over the real gist of the argument, and it was that subventions from the Treasury in general relief of rates were very demoralising and led to extravagance. Up to 1891–2 there might be said to have been no general relief of poor rate in Scotland; but in 1892–3, for the first time, £50,000 a year was given in general relief of rates to the parochial boards, and that grant had been continued since Between 1879 and 1891 the expenditure on Scottish poor law was as near as possible £840,000 a year. It scarcely varied from year to year, but, when relief was given, it rose the first year, and two years afterwards it rose again, by £25,000 to £894,000. The effect of that £50,000 given every year to the Scotch Poor Rate, had been that the expenditure of the poor had increased by £50,000, beginning from the year 1877. By this Bill a still larger grant was to be given in a still more demoralising manner. He was quite certain that, looking to the general interest of the community, and still more to the interest of individual holders of house property, the effect, so far from being a relief, would prove an additional burden.

MR. BRYCE said he contended that more harm was done by the adoption of a principle temporarily as a means of relief than by its permanent adoption. He should not have been so apprehensive if the Lord Advocate had come forward with arguments in favour of a national poor rate. What excited apprehension now was that this principle was introduced by a side wind for another purpose, in a manner which was calculated to make Parliament forget the dangerous nature of the course on which it was asked to embark. Of all the kinds of expenditure to which it was dangerous to give subventions, and from which it was dangerous to remove the security of local economy, the expenditure on the poor rate was the most dangerous. He regarded with great apprehension the proposal to remove by this Bill the security to which local administration surrounded the expenditure on the poor. There could be no doubt that when any Government proposed hereafter to give larger subventions for this purpose, this instance would be cited as a precedent, and the House would here, without any deliberate purpose, have opened the door to a very large and dangerous deflection from its ordinary course.

MR. HALDANE said the point which his hon. Friend had raised was not one which the Government ought to pass over lightly. The Bill was for the relief of agricultural distress, but they ought to be careful lest they interfered with a principle well established which had worked satisfactorily, and on which it was not desirable to infringe without careful consideration. The poor law had larger latitude in Scotland than in England. It was true that an able-bodied man had no right of relief from the poor rate, but in the case of the aged and infirm the law of Scotland was different from the law of England. It was open to the Parish Councils, who now stood in the place of the old parochial boards, to administer the poor rate with a latitude and freedom unknown to the law of England. In Scotland you could give relief in a form which practically amounted to the grant of an old age pension to the aged and infirm. It was being done by Parish Councils in his own experience, and he believed satisfactorily. But it was a large problem to intrust to these Parish Councils the power of administering rates so freely that they might grant outdoor relief to the aged and infirm without check or restraint of law such as existed in England. What had worked satisfactorily so far was the feeling that funds were raised in the locality. But, without consideration of the difference they were making, they were interfering with the check on local responsibility, and handing over to these bodies considerable sums of money which would be applied without any sense of the necessity of raising them or contributing to them, to be administered by the Parish Councils in a fashion wholly unfamiliar to Members for English constituencies. He should have thought it desirable to keep the poor rate in Scotland intact and exempt from the operation of the Bill. He wished to have local responsibility intact, and bring home to the people who made large grants a sense of the responsibility they owed to their constituents who had to bear the burden of the rates. If they did not preserve that state of things he would not say that they would have extravagance, but a lessening of local restraint and responsibility without due realisation on the part of the committee of what a large infraction they were making on a principle well established in Scotland.

Question put, "That the words 'the poor rate' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 138 ; Noes, 56.—(Division List, No. 370).

*MR. McLEOD moved, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the words "three-eighths" and to insert instead thereof the words "one half." He believed that agricultural occupiers in Scotland should receive the same relief as the agricultural occupier in England—one half of the present rate. That would enable the Committee under this Bill to apply a certain proportion of the grant to parishes where the rates, particularly the poor rate, was a heavy burden. The average county rate did not vary very much, but the poor rate did. It would only be fair that they should endeavour to bring about the same average rate, and a plan that commended itself to him was that they should reduce the valuation of the parishes to one half and secure a sufficient sum to make up to those parishes where the poor rate was heavy. Another method would be to increase the amount of the special grant for the Highlands and Islands, for it was in that part of the country that the poor rate was heaviest. If the Amendment were accepted the Bill would be made to serve in a much greater degree than it did the object of the Government, the anomalous condition of things which at present existed would be removed, and a system produced which would approach much nearer to equity. He begged to move his Amendment.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE did no think the hon. Gentleman had reall shown any practical difference betweer this and the First sub-section, anc if he were to make a reply to thi Amendment he should simply have t repeat the arguments he had alread advanced in reply to proposals that hac been made on the previous sub-section He would only say that the matter of th amount of relief had been carefully considered, and the sum fixed was that whicl would afford the greatest amount o benefit to those whom it was desired t serve.

MR. CALDWELL observed that th rates indicated in this sub-section wer different to those referred to in th previous sub-section. The latter rate were levied according to the annua value, but in the case of the rates deal with in the present sub-section they hac classification for one thing, and deduction which were allowed in the case of th poor rate and the school rate, which wer not covered in the other rates. The rate in this sub-section, the poor rate, the schoo rate, and the other parish rates—wer certainly very much heavier than the rate dealt with in the First sub-section, anc therefore it was more important that the should have consideration shown to then than it was in the case of the others The effect of reducing the grant to on half, which was the Amendment, woulc undoubtedly be to give a less reductior to the agricultural tenant than the Bil proposed ; but, on the other hand, a large sum would be released which could b devoted to other purposes. Anyon acquainted with the law of rating i Scotland knew it had been a matter o repeated complaint that there existec parishes where there was an inordinat amount of poor rate and school rate especially in the case of parishes in th north which were the very poorest. I the case of the wealthier parishes, wher the valuation was very high, the rat was low, and they might have a poo rate of sixpence in the pound ; but in parish like Ross, in the Highlands, wher the valuation was low, there might be poor rate of seven shillings in th pound. If they had a little mone ought they not, obviously, to take advantage of the opportunity of applying it t equalise an excessive rate which did no arise from local mismanagement at al but because the valuation of the parishes concerned was so low, compared with the population, that it was impossible to provide the poor rate and school rate except at an enormous expense? When they had undoubted poverty, and rates were so notoriously different in the case of poor crofting parishes in the Highlands compared with the rest of the country, he thought it was a great pity, when they had this money available, that they did not apply it for the purpose in some way of redressing what had always been found to be an inordinate burden. It was evident the Government were determined to accept no Amendments and to consider nothing that was advanced from that side of the House.

DR. CLARK said Sub-section (1) applied to the whole county, but Sub-section (2) applied only to certain parishes in that county. Ross-shire had been mentioned. Sub-section (1) would not affect Ross-shire very much, but to both Ross-shire and Caithness Sub-section (2) would be a very important matter. In Ross-shire there were some parishes where the rates were 10s. in the pound. In the same county there were parishes where the Poor Rate was only 2d. or 3d. Why should they not have some limitations—say 6d. or 1s.—and why should they not give this money only to parishes paying more than 6d. or 1s.? They would then have a much larger sum to give to parishes where there was a congested population. There the rates were very high. The average School Board Rate was 2s. 6d., and the average Poor Rate 3s. 4d.; whereas in the eastern portion of the same county the rates were merely nominal. All they now asked for was some differentiation between those parishes where the rates were high and those where the rates were low. If the right hon. Gentleman wished to get the Bill through, he could assure him that by differentiating between the parishes as he had been suggesting, and then distributing the money where it was most wanted, he would find it an easier means of getting the Bill through. He hoped the Government would consider the matter, and not stick to a cast iron rule, giving to all alike, but would so distribute the grant that the money would be given where it was most needed.

MR. DALZIEL said that before the Debate closed, they were entitled to some further explanation than had already been given with regard to this Amendment. One or two points of importance had been raised on the Amendment. The first was, that if this was a Bill, as the Government had said, dealing with the reform of the rating as well as with the relief of agricultural depression, how was it that the Government took no notice of the variation of rates in different parishes? As the Bill now stood, the parish where the rates were only 6d. in the pound would receive just as much as the parish where the rates were as high as 7s. 6d. The next point raised was the contention of the Government that this Bill followed on the lines of the English Bill. If it was so, surely the same amount of relief should be granted to both countries; whereas, five-eighths was the proportion of relief given to Scotland and only one-half was given to England.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE did not think the point raised was germane to the present Amendment, but still he was ready to say that obviously the parishes which paid the most would get the most.

*MR. McLEOD said it was not correct to say that the relief would be the same in the parish which had a low rate as the parish which had a high rate. For instance a parish with a 6d. rate would be left with only 3d. in the pound to pay, while a parish with a 7s. rate would still have 3s. 6d. in the pound to pay.

*MR. HEDDERWICK hoped the Lord Advocate would see his way to accept the Amendment, on the ground that the acceptance of the Amendment would enable the right hon. Gentleman to deal a little more generously with the crofters.

Question put "That the word 'three-eighths,' stand part of the Clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 123; Noes, 49.—(Division List, No. 371.)

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN appealed to the Leader of the House at this stage to consent to report Progress, in order that the Committee might apply themselves with fresh minds to important new matter which would be raised by an Amendment in the name of the Lord Advocate.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY said he had hoped, and still thought, that it would be possible for the Committee to finish the Bill to-night and to-morrow. [" Hear, hear ! "] But he quite admitted, if the course proposed by the right hon. Gentleman was followed, and if there was to be a lengthened discussion on the Amendment referred to, without putting a great, if not an undue strain on hon. Members, to ask them to finish the Bill on Tuesday. He, on his part, was ready to meet the wishes of the right hon. Gentleman if it were a distinct Parliamentary understanding that the Committee stage should close on Wednesday afternoon. He hoped the discussion would continue in the same friendly spirit which had marked the proceedings to-night. If he understood that the present stage should close at the time he indicated he should be glad to meet the wishes of the right hon. Gentleman.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN thought the right hon. Gentleman might count upon that understanding so far as the Opposition side of the House were concerned.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

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MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892)
AMENDMENT BILL.

Order read, for resuming adjourned Debate on Question [15th May], "That the Bill be now read a Second time."

Question again proposed; Debate resumed.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) rose to second the Motion for the rejection of the Bill made, he understood, when the Measure was last under discussion. The House had received no explanation of the meaning of the Bill from the Under Secretary for War, except that it dealt with shooting ranges and other details. He had no objection to Volunteers in every part of the country, where necessary, being provided with proper rifle ranges, provided it was done by a proper authority; but it appeared to him that this Bill somewhat expanded the principle which had been adopted, to some extent very improperly, in the Bill passed in the closing days of a previous Session, at two or three in the morning. The Volunteer force was an Imperial force, and not a local force. He thought it ought to be treated as an Imperial force, and he did not think that any duties ought to be cast on local authorities in regard to it such as were contemplated by this Bill. It might be said that the duties were optional; but those optional duties often became obligatory, and it was exceedingly difficult at times for local authorities to resist the demands made upon them. The first clause of the Bill was very wide in its scope, and imposed on local authorities duties of a character in relation to an Imperial force which they ought not to be called upon to bear. What was the policy of the present Government as between the Imperial and local authority? Its policy was by means of subventions to the local authority to aid that authority in its work, but in this Bill the process appeared to be reversed. While the work ought to be done and paid for by the Imperial authority, this Bill conferred powers on the local authority to do and pay for work which ought to be done by the Imperial authority.

Mr. DALZIEL said he did not intend to prolong the Debate, but he rose to make a Motion which he hoped would be accepted by the Leader of the House. He submitted to the right hon. Gentleman that when the Twelve o'clock Rule was suspended, he distinctly stated that it was not his intention to ask the House to sit for any considerable period after 12 o'clock. The House had been dealing with a Bill for an hour and a-half beyond 12 o'clock, and it was not fair to ask the House to go into a Debate on another Bill at half-past one in the morning. Up to the present there had been practically no discussion on this Bill, and he submitted to the Leader of the House and the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, that if they were anxious to pass the Bill, they would make greater headway with it if they agreed to adjourn the Debate now, in order that there might not be an all-night Sitting every night. He begged to move "That the Debate be now adjourned."

MR. J. P. FARRELL seconded the Motion.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press the Amendment. The hon. Gentleman had not quite accurately remembered the purport of his remarks in moving the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule. He was quite right in indicating that his hope was that the House would not be asked to have all-night Sittings perpetually, and that no unnecessary or undue strain would be thrown on Members of the House. He would remind the hon. Gentleman that the Bill was brought up in conformity with the unanimous desire of a Committee which sat during the last Parliament in which Gentlemen on the other side of the House were in a majority, and he thought that a Measure so modest in its dimensions and so useful in its object, fathered as it was by a Committee, might very well receive a Second Reading without any prolonged discussion.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) contended that the House was getting into the habit of passing these Military Bills without any discussion at all. There were grave objecticns to the Bill. Considerable progress had been made with the Scotch Bill, and he appealed that this might not be allowed to stand over.

DR. TANNER (Cork, Mid) asked why, if this was a non-controversial Bill, they should try to force it through at that time of night. Great exasperation was caused by trying to force Bills on against the wish of a large number of Members?

Question put, "That the Debate be now adjourned."

The House divided:—Ayes, 24; Noes, 105.—(Division List, No. 172.)

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put." [*Cheers.*]

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 105; Noes, 23.—(Division List, No. 173.)

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House proceeded to a Division.

*MR. SPEAKER stated that he thought the Ayes had it, and on his decision being challenged, it appeared to him that the Division was frivolously claimed, and he accordingly directed first the Ayes and then the Noes to stand up in their places, and 20 Members having stood up for the Noes, MR. SPEAKER declared that the Ayes had it.

Main Question put.

The House proceeded to a Division.

*MR. SPEAKER stated that he thought the Ayes had it, and on his decision being challenged, it appeared to him that the Division was frivolously claimed, and he accordingly directed the Ayes to stand up in their places, and all the Members on the Ministerial side, numbering about 100, having stood up, and only twenty Noes when called upon, MR. SPEAKER declared the Ayes had it.

MR. DALZIEL: On a point of Order, Sir—[*Ministerial cries of* "Order!"] We have only one Speaker. [*Cheers.*]

*MR. SPEAKER: It is extremely irregular for the hon. Member to rise to address me, and then to address Gentlemen opposite. [*Ministerial cheers.*]

MR. DALZIEL: I express my extreme regret. It certainly was not intended as any disrespect to you, Sir, but the provocation given—[*Cries of* "Order, order!"]. I now beg to ask you, on a point of Order, whether it is not the case that, on 20 Members rising, a Division should, in the ordinary course, take place.

*MR. SPEAKER: No; there is no such Rule. [*Ministerial cheers.*] The Ayes have it. [*Ministerial cheers.*]

Bill read a Second time, and committed for To-morrow.

## STANNARIES BILL [H.L.].

Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

### ABOLITION OF VICE-WARDEN'S COURT.

(1.) On the commencement of this Act the Court of the Vice-Warden of the Stannaries shall cease to exist except for the purpose of continuing and concluding proceedings pending in that Court at that date, and as from that date all jurisdiction and powers of the said court and its officers shall, except as aforesaid, be transferred to and vested in such of the county courts as the Lord Chancellor may by order direct, and be exercised subject to and in accordance with rules of court for regulating the procedure in county courts.

(2.) Provision may be made by order of the Lord Chancellor—

(*a*) for determining by, to, or before what officer, or in what office, may be done anything required to be done by, to, or before any officer or in any office of the said court of the Vice-Warden;

(*b*) for transferring to a county court any proceedings pending in the said court at the commencement of this Act;

(*c*) for determining the place of sitting for the exercise of any jurisdiction transferred by this Act;

(*d*) with respect to the use and disposal of any property which at the commencement of this Act is held for the use of the said court or of any officer of the said court, and of any room or building which at that date is appropriated for the use of the said court or of the Vice-Warden, officers, and suitors thereof; and

(*e*) with respect to the custody of any rerecords which at that date are under the custody of the said court.

**DR. TANNER** said that, as no discussion had taken place on this Bill, he should move the omission of the clause. There were many grounds of objection to the proposals contained in the clause, which the hon. Member then proceeded to read.

***THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS** said the hon. Member was not entitled to trifle with the House by reading the Clause.

**DR. TANNER** said that, in that case, he would content himself by moving that the clause be left out, on the ground that it ought not to be proceeded with at that late hour. [*Cries of* "Order!"] He hoped the Bill would be fought line by line. [*Laughter.*]

**MR. SAMUEL EVANS** (Glamorgan, Mid) said his hon. Friend behind him had, no doubt, not been able to give many reasons for moving to omit the clause. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] But when a Bill was brought on unexpectedly, and at that late hour, it was not always easy to find reasons off-hand. ["Hear, hear!"] It was a difficult thing sometimes to follow a lot of small Bills one after another. Nevertheless, there were many reasons, and valid reasons, why this clause should be omitted. In one respect the clause was novel in Parliamentary procedure. In the first place they proposed that the Stannaries Court—a very old court—should be done away with entirely. That might be a good thing or a bad thing to do; he thought it was a bad thing. The Stannaries Court had done good work, and he thought it was a mistake to abolish a special court of this kind. The clause enabled the Lord Chancellor by his mere order to determine who was to do the work of the Court. It might be a good thing to do away with the Court and abolish the Vice-warden, but nobody would suggest that the Lord Chancellor should be able to set up a Court of his own. The Lord Chancellor had a great deal of patronage and power already, but he was not aware of a single Act of Parliament which enabled him to set up an entirely new Court and jurisdiction in place of a Court and jurisdiction which had been abolished. He trusted the Committee would withhold its approval of the clause.

**THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY** said it was quite evident hon. Gentlemen opposite intended to raise a great many interesting points, and, therefore, he begged to move "That the Chairman do report Progress and ask leave to sit again."

**MR. DALZIEL** said he and his hon. Friends would agree to report Progress, but he wished to protest against the Bill being taken at this late period of the evening.

**MR. EVANS** asked if they were to understand that when Progress was reported, the Government would consent to the adjournment of the House?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said there was the Expiring Laws Bill which they might take. ["No, no!"] At all events he did not think they ought to sit long.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

### TELEGRAPH MONEY BILL.

Third Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] deferred till To-morrow.

### VEXATIOUS ACTIONS BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### BURGLARY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### LARCENY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

### SUPPLY [31st JULY].

Resolutions reported.

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS II.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £78,610, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £127,542, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Subordinate Departments."

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £9,600, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners in Lunacy in England."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £376,571, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for Stationery, Printing, Paper, Binding, and Printed Books for the Public Service, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Stationery Office; and for sundry Miscellaneous Services, including Reports of Parliamentary Debates."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £26,700, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Civil Service Commission."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £39,974, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of the Comptroller and Auditor General."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £5,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the salaries and expenses of the Registry of Friendly Societies."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £9,500, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on on the 31st day of March 1897, for the salaries and expenses of the National Debt Office."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,833 be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council and for Quarantine expenses."

Resolutions read a Second time:—

First three Resolutions agreed to.

Fourth and fifth Resolutions postposed.

Subsequent Resolutions agreed to.

Postponed Resolutions to be considered To-morrow.

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

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## MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL.

Order for Committee read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

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## WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY GUARANTEE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

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## SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

## WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Wednesday.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment [19th May] proposed on Consideration of the Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee).

Clause 6,—

### POWER TO GRANT SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCE IN RESPECT OF DUTIES UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Where a local authority which is also a sanitary authority are by law empowered to grant a superannuation allowance to any of their officers, they may, if they think fit, with the consent of the Local Government Board, take into consideration, in calculating the amount of such allowance, any duties which the officers may have discharged under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1890, or this Act.

And which Amendment was to leave out the words "they think fit, with the consent," and to insert instead thereof the words "subject to the approval."—(*Mr. Horace Plunkett*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Question put and agreed to.

Motion made, "That the Bill be recommitted in respect of certain new clauses."

**Dr. CLARK** protested against the recommittal of the Bill on the ground that the proposed new clauses were not on the Paper.

Bill re-committed in respect of certain new clauses.

Bill considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

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## EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL

On the Motion for the Second Reading of this Bill,

**Mr. J. P. FARRELL** (Cavan, W.): Does this Bill include the Irish Arms Act?

**Mr. HANBURY**: Yes.

**Mr. J. P. FARRELL** appealed to the Government to postpone the Bill until some of his colleagues were present.

***Mr. SPEAKER** said that the objection to the Irish Arms Act could not be discussed on the Second Reading; it was a point for Committee.

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY** hoped that hon. Members would allow this stage to pass because it was not the stage on which the objection mentioned could be raised. The proper stage for that was Committee.

**Mr. J. P. FARRELL** withdrew his objection.

Bill read a Second time and committed for To-morrow.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at Twenty-five minutes before Three o'clock.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Tuesday, 4th August 1896.*

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## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

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### LONDONDERRY IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Read 3ª, with the Amendments; passed, and returned to the Commons.

### DROGHEDA CORPORATION BILL.

On the Order for the consideration of the Commons' Amendments to the Drogheda Corporation Bill,

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The EARL of MORLEY) said the Bill originated in their Lordships' House, and its object was to extend the limits of the borough of Drogheda. When the Bill came before the House of Commons that House passed a mandatory Instruction to the Committee to which the Bill was referred ordering them to lower the municipal franchise of the borough. The Bill came back to the House of Lords containing the new clause. It was referred to the Standing Orders Committee on the ground that the new clause was not covered by the notices of the Bill, and, therefore, it had not complied with Standing Orders. The Standing Orders Committee did not, however, deem it its duty to refuse to allow the Bill to proceed, as no opposition was raised before it, but if there had been any opposition to the Bill it was probable that the Standing Orders Committee would have taken quite another view of their duty. But he took the opportunity of calling the attention of the House to this undesirable practice of introducing into local private Bills affecting local interests, clauses dealing with the franchise, which properly belonged to public legislation. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (LORD HALSBURY) said that, if the system to which his noble Friend had referred was allowed to be pursued, reforms in municipal law and government would be introduced here and there through the country through the medium of private Bills. He only regretted that the Standing Orders Committee had not refused to allow the Bill to proceed.

THE EARL OF BELMORE, as a member of the Standing Orders Committee, said that if there had been the slightest indication of opposition to the Bill he should not have given his vote to allow the Bill to proceed. Probably the reason why there was no opposition was that the political party now in a majority in the Corporation of Drogheda would continue to be in a majority under the extension of the franchise.

Report of the Standing Orders Committee upon the Amendments made by the Commons considered (according to Order), and agreed to; Commons' Amendments also considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

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### BISHOPRIC OF BRISTOL ACT AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

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### HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with an Amendment; the said Amendment to be considered on Thursday next.

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### LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments to be printed.—[No. 233.]

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### COAL MINES REGULATION ACT (1887) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee, with Amendments; the Report thereof to be received on Thursday next, and Bill to be printed as amended.—[No. 234.]

## FINANCE BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order); Committee negatived; then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to Order), and dispensed with; Bill read 3ª, and passed.

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## WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS BILL [H.L.].

On the report of Amendments to this Bill,

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said the Amendments had been considered by the Standing Committee, and some valuable suggestions were made by the late Lord Chancellor and by the present occupant of the Woolsack. He assured Lord Herschell that he would consider suggestions he made with regard to alterations in Clause 3, and he afterwards informed him that he considered the Amendments befitted the Local Government Board more than himself (Lord Londonderry) as introducer of this Bill. He consulted Lord Harris, and he promised to lay the matter before the Local Government Board. The President of the Local Government Board advised the consideration of the Bill by a Select Committee of the House of Commons. In all probability that committee would not sit before next year, and the Bill (which he was extremely anxious should pass the House before it rose) would not conclude its stages during the present Session. But he understood the Local Government Board would not give their concurrence in carrying through the Bill unless Clause 3 was eliminated. He was extremely loth to eliminate a clause which he considered of great importance, more especially as it had been considered in Committee; but, as its elimination seemed the only way to get the Bill through, he agreed to it. He moved that the Bill be reported, with Amendments, to the House.

Amendments reported (according to Order); a further Amendment made; Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next; and to be printed as amended.—[No. 235.]

## LABOURERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[The EARL of MORLEY, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES, in the Chair.]

Clause 1,—

AMENDMENT OF 46 & 47 VICT. C. 60, SS. 4 AND 7, AS TO PERIODS FOR PROCEDURE, AMENDMENT OF REPRESENTATIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES.

(1.) In Section four of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1883, "seven days" shall be substituted for "fourteen days" wherever those words occur.

(2.) The notice of a subsequent meeting of a sanitary authority required by the said Section four shall not be necessary except in the case of a meeting at which a final resolution is to be passed.

(3.) A representation under Section five of the said Act of 1883, or any certificate of a sanitary officer relating to the same, may be amended at any time prior or subsequent to the making of an improvement scheme in pursuance thereof, and the power of amendment hereby given shall include power to permit any such representation to be signed at any stage of the proceedings thereon by any person duly qualified to sign the same, and such signing shall have the same effect as if the representation had been originally so signed; provided that no amendment other than the addition of a signature shall be made without the consent in writing in the case of a representation of the persons who originally signed the same, and in the case of a certificate of the sanitary officer, and any signature added shall be verified by a member or officer of the sanitary authority.

(4.) In section seven of the said Act of 1883 "two consecutive weeks" shall be substituted for "three consecutive weeks," and the notices to be served under the said section may be served at the same time as, or at any time after, the publication of the advertisement in that section mentioned.

(5.) Any notice under the said section seven may be served on the agent of the person required to be served in like manner as on such person, and need not be served personally; provided that, if the service is by post, the letter shall be registered.

(6.) Where the Local Government Board direct a local inquiry to be held under the said Section seven, the inspector of the Board appointed to hold the inquiry shall, not later than seven days before the day on which the inquiry will be held, forward by post in a registered letter addressed to the usual or last-known place of abode of every owner or reputed owner, lessee or reputed lessee, and occupier of the lands proposed to be taken compulsorily, a notice of the date on which the inquiry will be held.

*THE EARL OF ARRAN moved, in Sub-section (5), after the words "may be served on" to insert the words "the owner and," in order to provide that any notice under Section 7 of the Act of 1883 may be served "on the owner and" agent of the person required to be served. The noble Lord said he proposed these words because the time for giving notice had been considerably shortened, and there might not be time for the agent or principal to consult each other in the time named—a fortnight instead of three weeks.

THE EARL OF RANFURLY contended that the Amendment did not seem in any way necessary. The memorandum on Sub-section (5) showed that what the noble Lord required was provided for.

[The memorandum referred to by the noble Earl was as follows:—

"Section 7 of the Act of 1883 directs notice of land to be taken compulsorily to be served on the owner, etc., by delivery of the notice personally to him or to his agent, or by leaving the notice at his place of abode, or sending it by post to his place of abode. It has been held that the notice must be delivered to the agent personally, and cannot be served by leaving it at his place of abode or sending it to him by post. The sub-clause allows the notice to be served on the agent in the same manner as on the owner, save that if the service is by post it is to be by registered letter."]

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD DE VESCI moved, in Sub-section (6), after the word "occupier," to insert the words "or agent of the persons required to be served."

Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF ARRAN brought up the following new clause, which he moved to insert after Clause 4:—

PROVISION IN CASE OF LETTINGS BY SANITARY AUTHORITY TO PERSONS OTHER THAN AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

(1.) Where a complaint is made to the Local Government Board by any person resident in a sanitary district that the sanitary authority of the district have, in contravention of Section thirteeen of the Labourers' (Ireland) Act, 1883, made any letting under the principal Acts to a person other than an agricultural labourer, or permitted any tenement or part thereof acquired under the said Acts to be held by any person other than an agricultural labourer, as occupier thereof, the Local Government Board may, if they think fit, direct a local inquiry to be held, and a report made to them with respect to the grounds of complaint.

(2.) If it appears upon the report of the inspector that the complaint is well founded, the Local Government Board may direct the sanitary authority to take steps within a time to be named by the Board for determining any letting made or removing from any such tenement or part thereof any person permitted to hold the same in contravention of the said Section thirteen.

(3.) If the Sanitary Authority do not within the time so limited take such steps as may be directed in that behalf, the Local Government Board may make an Order giving any of their inspectors authority to take such steps as aforesaid, and to exercise all the powers and to perform all the duties of the sanitary authority for the purpose of making lettings under the principal Acts.

The noble Lord said a clause to the same effect was in the original Bill brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Gerald Balfour, but was eliminated in Committee on the representations of Mr. Dillon and Mr. J. E. Redmond, on the ground that it affected the evicted tenants. As there were only 27 evicted tenants who had been put into labourers' cottages, he did not think that could be the chief object of the clause. There had been very improper lettings, and it was to guard against these that the clause was introduced. Mr. Gerald Balfour, in withdrawing the clause, suggested that next year a separate Bill might be passed containing it. But it had since been decided that instead of introducing it in a fresh Bill it would be better to reinstate the clause in the Bill now before the House.

LORD DE VESCI said he hoped the Government would see their way to accept the clause. It was only where the law had been contravened that the Local Government Board would hold an inquiry, and when the Inspector reported to that effect an Order would be made on the sanitary authority. He had examined the Act of 1883, and it did not contain any specific power to the Local Government Board to enforce it. There was no justification for the elimination of the clause in the House of Commons.

THE EARL OF MAYO said he could not see what objection there could be to the insertion of the clause. If, on inquiry, the complaint that persons were living in the labourers' cottages for whom they were not intended was not just, the Local Government Board would dismiss the Inquiry and there would be an end of the matter.

LORD CLARINA said he had had a large experience of the working of the Labourers' Acts in Ireland. Several improper persons had, to his knowledge, been admitted to labourers' cottages. An evicted tenant occupied one of the cottages. He was not only placed in the cottage but appointed collector of rents, and the result was he pocketed the money he received and let in his securities for the amount. No Act has been more abused than the Labourers Act. He supposed it was the intention of the Legislature to provide means for the erection of labourers' cottages at a reasonable rate of interest, but he doubted whether it was ever intended that the local authority should have the power of fixing rents on such cottages which did not represent half the cost, for which the unfortunate ratepayers had to provide. He employed between 40 and 50 labourers himself, and he had four or five cottages erected on his estate, not one of which, however, was occupied by his labourers. Indeed, in several cases they were occupied by men who were not agricultural labourers at all. He knew of a cottage where, the tenant having failed to pay his rent, the board of guardians had been obliged to turn him out. The result was that nobody would take the cottage, and people amused themselves by smashing every window in it.

THE EARL OF RANFURLY said the Government were unable to accept this clause. The Bill was passed through the other House as a non-contentious Measure, this clause having been eliminated by the Chief Secretary, as various boards of guardians objected most strongly to it. It was only by eliminating the clause that the Bill could be passed through as a non-contentious Measure. He would point out that Sub-sections 1 and 2 of the clause already existed in the law as it now stood, that the cases the clause was desired to rectify were extremely few, and that the Chief Secretary in withdrawing the clause left to himself the power to bring in at a future Session a short Bill to put further power in the hands of the Board of Works or other authority to carry out the very views submitted by the noble Lords. ["Hear, hear!"] He would also point out that no remonstrance had been addressed to the Government on behalf of the labourers, who were by no means behindhand in making complaints when they considered that improper lettings had taken place, and into which the Local Government Board made full inquiry. In these circumstances he trusted the noble Lord would not press the clause, the effect of which, if carried, might be to prevent the passage of the Measure.

THE EARL OF MAYO said that, as far as he understood the matter, if this clause were left out the Government admitted that improper persons could be allowed into these cottages. He should like to have that definitely stated, because it would be something for them to go upon. The noble Marquess stated in his Second Reading Speech that improper persons had already slipped into these cottages.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (LORD ASHBOURNE) observed that the question was largely one of convenience and prudence. Everybody who read the clause would find a great deal of good sense in it, and it would be worth while considering and applying if there was a chance of passing it into law in the present Session. ["Hear, hear!"] The matter was discussed in the House of Commons, and it was found that this was a clause which would be keenly contested, which would lead to debate and difference of opinion, and if it should now by any accident be inserted it would mean that it would kill the Bill. The Bill was a convenient Bill, which would simplify, shorten and cheapen procedure, and it would be inexpedient and imprudent when the Bill had reached their Lordships' House at this stage, in order to insert a clause which commended itself to many of their Lordships, practically to kill the Bill. The Chief Secretary had not taken up a *non possumus* attitude with reference to it, and had suggested that on a future occasion, when the opportunity presented itself, the matter might be enabled to take its place on the Statute-book. The effect of pressing it on now was not to improve but practically to kill the Bill, and he would suggest that the noble Lord, having presented the clause, would be acting wisely and prudently if he allowed it to be negatived. ["Hear, hear!"]

*THE EARL OF ARRAN presumed that the Government when they introduced the clause in the Bill considered that there was some necessity for it and that the matter was not provided for by existing Acts and should, therefore, be inserted. He would like to point out that even if this Bill fell through this year there was nothing to prevent boards of guardians acquiring land for labourers' dwellings under the existing Acts. ["Hear, hear!"]

The House divided on the Question, "That the clause be inserted in the Bill."

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Clause agreed to.

VISCOUNT DE VESCI moved the following new clause:—

A rural sanitary authority may, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, sell any cottage or cottages with the land attached subject to the following conditions:

(1.) The purchaser shall be liable for the repayment of all charges or proportion of charges attached to such cottage or cottages and the land attached as may be specified in Sections twelve and eighteen of the Labourers' (Ireland) Act of 1883, and subject also to the conditions of letting as specified in Section thirteen of the said Act of 1883.

(2.) Such cottage or cottages and land shall be offered for sale at a reserve price, being not less than the charges or proportion of charges already incurred and paid by the rural sanitary authority.

(3.) Such cottage or cottages and land shall be offered for sale at the said reserve price first to the owner or representative of the owner from whom the land for said cottage or cottages was originally purchased or taken on lease.

(4.) If such owner or representative shall decline to purchase, or shall have neglected to do so within a reasonable time to be specified in the notice to him that such cottage or cottages and the land are for sale, then they shall be offered for sale at the said reserve price to the actual occupier of the holding from which the land was taken.

(5.) If such occupier shall decline to purchase, or shall have neglected to do so within a reasonable time to be specified in the notice to him that such cottage or cottages and land are for sale, they shall be offered for sale by public auction or tender after specified advertisements in the newspapers circulating in the district, at a price not less than the said reserve price.

THE EARL OF RANFURLY said the Government would agree to the Amendment with the addition of the following words after the word "attached" in the first paragraph, "which have ceased to be required for the accommodation of the labourers within the district."

VISCOUNT DE VESCI assented to the insertion of the words mentioned by the Earl of Ranfurly.

Clause, as thus amended, agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; the Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with; and Bill to be printed as amended.—[No. 236.]

## RAILWAYS (IRELAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read $3^{a}$ on Friday next.

## CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) BILL.

On the Order for Committee on the Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill,

*The SECRETARY to the BOARD of TRADE (The Earl of Dudley) said the Bill had been framed in order to improve the means at present existing of averting and concluding industrial disputes. It therefore dealt with a subject of some importance—important not only in view of the dislocation brought about in the home industry by these trade disputes, and the consequent misery entailed amongst hundreds of people directly and indirectly concerned, but even still more important in view of the loss to their international trade, when, in these days of keen competition, the apprehension of even a temporary stoppage of work caused the removal of many valuable orders from English to foreign firms. It was almost impossible to estimate with any degree of certainty the actual loss that these disputes occasioned to the trade of this country, but some conception could be formed of its magnitude from statistics furnished by the Board of Trade. From the report on strikes and lock-outs he found that in 1894, 1,061 trade disputes came to the knowledge of the Board of Trade, involving 324,000 persons and the loss of 9,320,000 working days, while in 1893 no less than 31,200,000 working days were lost by this cause. These figures showed that the evil was a serious one, and, he thought, afforded sufficient justification for the action taken by Her Majesty's Government. In framing the Bill, two courses were open to the Government. They could, on the one hand, have attempted to attain the object they had in view by drastic and coercive methods; while, on the other hand, they could chiefly rely upon the powers of conciliation and persuasion. Those were the two alternatives, and the latter course was the one which had been chosen. The Government had adopted that course because the whole history and experience of previous legislation upon this subject clearly proved that drastic and coercive methods had invariably failed in bringing about a settlement of these industrial disputes. Much good work, however, had been done by voluntary boards of conciliation which had been formed in various places for dealing with this matter. These boards had relied solely upon voluntary methods and upon the powers of conciliation, yet their achievements stood out in marked contrast to those of legislation. By their action not only had many disputes been settled, but so effectually had friction been allayed and misunderstanding dispelled that many impending lock-outs and strikes had been averted. They proposed, therefore, in this Bill to follow the voluntary principle. They did not attempt in any way to supersede or interfere with the system so successfully adopted by these voluntary boards. On the contrary, they sought in every way to encourage and stimulate its growth. By Clause 1 it was proposed to allow any board of conciliation or arbitration to add importance to its *status* and weight to its decisions by obtaining registration from a Government department. This registration would not involve any interference with the constitution or the rules of the conciliation board. The only condition was that the Board of Trade should be kept informed of its proceedings, and of any methods it might adopt for settling disputes. By Clause 3, the Board of Trade was empowered to stimulate the establishment of a conciliation board where none existed. But, although they considered that, in the majority of cases, trade disputes were best settled by local means, there might be cases in which either there was no conciliation board available or the action of such board was ineffectual. In such cases the action of a Government Department might be the best means of settling a dispute or of inducing the parties to come to an amicable arrangement, and therefore the Bill proposed to allow the Board of Trade to take such action when it saw fit to do so. During the last two or three years the Board of Trade had been very successful in arranging industrial differences through the action of an impartial nominee, conspicuous instances of the value of such mediation being the great coal trade dispute in 1893 and the boot and shoe dispute in 1895. It might be said that the Board of Trade already made every attempt to bring about a settlement of disputes, and that, therefore, no further legislation was required to give it additional authority. But, unless the Legislature expressly stated in an Act of Parliament, that in its opinion the Board of Trade ought to take all reasonable steps to bring about a settlement of trade disputes, there was a danger that such action might be regarded by public opinion as lying outside the scope of a Government Department. Practically, therefore, what they asked by the clause was that the Board of Trade should be given a mandate by Parliament to use its discretion in these matters, and to exercise what powers it might possess in this respect for the general good of the trading community. Such were the main provisions of the Bill. Of course he did not suggest that if the Bill passed into law no trade disputes would take place in the future, but he believed it would be found to be a practical Measure of considerable utility and value, and that it would tend to lessen the number of strikes and lock-outs which now unfortunately occurred. ["Hear, hear."]

Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; the Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

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## LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

*THE EARL OF DUDLEY, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said the object of this Measure was to facilitate by special legislative means the extension of railway communication in districts where at present the means of transport were very inadequate. The Bill had been brought forward mainly in the interest of the agricultural industry, and he did not hesitate to express a hope that it might be found to be a useful addition to those other measures, by which the present Government had sought to relieve to some extent the depression which undoubtedly existed amongst many of the agriculturists of the country. At the same time the Bill was not framed in the interest of agriculture alone, and the Government trusted that if it passed into law other industries also would derive some benefit from its provisions. No one would deny the enormous advantages which all traders derived from the power afforded them by our railway system of distributing their merchandise with ease and rapidity; but, important as the facilities of communication undoubtedly were to ordinary traders, they were often more so to agriculturists, whose produce was often very perishable, and which must, therefore, in order to command a fair price, arrive at the markets without delay. It so happened that in many of the country districts the means of transport were by no means what they might be. For instance, in seven counties in England and lowland Scotland there were no less than one million acres of cultivated land more than three miles from a railway station. In Wiltshire, out of a total acreage in round numbers of 859,000, 325,000 were thus situated. In Suffolk there were 286,000, in Herefordshire 102,000, and in Berwickshire 128,000 acres more than three miles from a railway station. The inconvenience and expense that must be entailed upon those who cultivated those acres could well be imagined. There had been a very widespread demand that Parliament should attempt by some means or another to stimulate the extension of railway communication. That demand was very clearly expressed at a conference, including representatives of the most experienced and well-informed opinion upon the subject, summoned by Mr. Bryce in 1894. In France and in Belgium systems of secondary railways had been established for some time with great advantage to both consumers and producers. Mr. Ritchie, Sir Courtenay Boyle, and he made a short tour of inspection last autumn. They found that in Belgium especially the establishment of light lines had been attended with great success, that they were cheaply constructed, and as a whole profitably worked, and that even in those districts where they were not worked at direct profit, so great were the benefits derived from them that their further extension was still being asked for. There were good reasons to believe that an extension of railway communication in this country would in many cases be very advantageous, particularly to the agricultural population, and that if such an object could be facilitated by legislation it was the duty of the Government to undertake legislation. In considering the direction of any such legislation it was necessary to bear in mind that the development of railway communication by private enterprise depended mainly upon one condition, the condition of profitable investment. It might be assumed with considerable certainty that in those districts where an extension of railway communication was now required the conditions were not such as to promise, under existing circumstances, a fair return upon private capital invested in the lines, and the first problem, therefore, which the Government had had to consider was whether by legislation those conditions could be improved, whether the cost of establishing and working new lines could be so materially reduced as to hold out a prospect of a fair return upon the money invested in them. After considerable consideration the Government had come to the conclusion that it was possible and expedient to effect such a reduction in, at any rate, two directions. In the first place, the present cost of promoting a new railway was a very heavy item. As the law now stood, compulsory powers for the acquisition of land for the purpose of a railway could only be acquired by a direct appeal to Parliament, and the cost of that appeal was very great. In the second place, the working expenses of a railway were greatly increased by the regulations enforced by the Board of Trade in the interest of public safety, regulations which always tended to increase rather than to diminish in stringency. In both those directions the Government considered it practicable to effect a considerable reduction, and the method by which they proposed to do so was one which, though somewhat novel, would he hoped, meet with the approval of the House. They proposed to set up a Light Railways Commission of three members, to whom all applications for power to construct railways under the Bill would be submitted. The members of the Commission had already been selected, and he was glad to say Lord Jersey had consented to act. Of the other two members one was a gentleman of legal knowledge, and the other was an officer who had served for several years in the Royal Engineers, and who had much experience of State Railways in India. The latter would receive £1,000 a year. The functions of this Commission would be of a very important character, and on the manner in which the members discharged their duty would depend the success of their proposal. They would have to carefully consider every scheme, satisfy themselves that there was a real need in the locality, that all persons who might be affected had been consulted, and that full opportunity was given for objections to be heard. The local inquiries of the Commissioners would not be of a merely judicial or administrative kind. They would be expected also to help and advise the promoters of light railways in any way that they could, carrying out this work in a sympathetic and informal manner. If the Commissioners were satisfied that a scheme was a good one then they would have to approve the order authorising the undertaking, which would be sent to the Board of Trade for confirmation. Objection had been taken that too much latitude was allowed to vary the provisions of the Lands Clauses Act. He should in Committee propose an Amendment to insure that such portions of that Act as related to the acquisition of land should be embodied in their entirety. Further precautions were taken as to the responsibility of the Board of Trade, and it would be in the power of the Board to say whether any scheme should be submitted to the direct judgment of Parliament. He was aware that objection had been taken that land should not be compulsorily acquired, except on the express direct sanction of Parliament. He hoped that that objection would not be pressed. They believed that no real injustice was possible. On the other hand, he would express his opinion that unless the present cost of promotion was lessened by relieving promoters of the necessity of applying to

Parliament, serious and, in some cases, insurmountable obstacles would be placed in the way of these light railways. They proposed to lessen the cost of promotion and also the cost of working. It would not be necessary to take in sparsely-populated land, where only four or five trains would run in a day, the precautions for safety which would be necessary in centres of population. So far he had dealt with the cheapening and simplifying clauses of the Bill. They were founded mainly on the recommendations of the Committee which sat in 1894, but, although they agreed in these recommendations, they did not think that they went far enough in some respects. Simplification was necessary, but it was not the sum total of what was necessary. Some financial help from Imperial and local sources would also in many cases be required, and provision was therefore made in the Bill for aid of that kind. But before the Treasury was called upon to lend money for a light railway it was necessary that it should be satisfied that all the parties in the locality, who were concerned in the undertaking, were co-operating and providing for their share of the expense. They sought to establish the safeguard that State aid only should be given when the *bonâ fides* of the undertaking were guaranteed by those responsible for the administration of the locality. They had, however, foreseen that cases might arise where a local authority was not in a position to provide a contribution, and in such cases they had followed the experience of Mr. Balfour's Act in Ireland. He hoped he had said enough to convince their Lordships that this was a Measure which attempted to deal in a practical manner with a question of some importance, and that therefore it deserved to be passed into law. [*Cheers.*]

THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY asked whether there was any place in England where the working of a light railway could be seen, and also what was the cost of constructing such a railway.

*THE EARL OF DUDLEY said there were several light railways in this country. Mr. Ritchie and himself had visited one in Cambridgeshire. Their experience in Belgium led them to believe that these lines could be made at about £3,000 or £4,000 per mile.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: I wish to inform the Rev. Prelate that he need not go to Belgium to see those railways. He has only to take a pleasant summer trip to Ireland, and he will see lots of them. [*Laughter.*]

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES sympathised with the objects of the Bill, but did not altogether agree with the methods by which those objects were to be attained. His noble Friend had said that the principal object of the Bill was to simplify and render less costly the existing procedure in regard to the promotion and construction of light railways. But how was that done? It was done by giving absolutely uncontrolled powers to the Light Railway Commission appointed by the Board of Trade, and to the Board of Trade, a branch of the Executive Government, which powers had up to the present time been exercised exclusively by the Legislature. He agreed that the present procedure before Parliament might be simplified and rendered cheaper and easier; and if the Bill but accomplished that object it would have the sympathy of everyone who wished to see enterprise encouraged in this country. But it was quite a different thing for Parliament to surrender all its powers to a Government Department which was checked by no legislation, for as he read the Bill, the Board of Trade could, by the operation of its provisions, override the Lands Clauses, Railway Clauses and the Companies Clauses Acts. They had heard a great deal about light railways, but he did not think that anyone in the House or out of it had any notion of what a light railway was or was intended to be. There was no sort of definition of it in the Bill, or in any Act, that he was aware of. Therefore the word "light" was an inoperative term in connection with the Bill. The Bill included not merely all tramways, but any railway which the Board of Trade thought might justly be brought within its scope. It certainly included tramways in towns, and it might include large trunk lines throughout the country. He was aware that Clause 9, Sub-section 3, provided that if the Board of Trade after having considered an application were of opinion that by reason of the magnitude of the proposed undertaking, and the effect thereof on the undertaking of a railway company, the proposals of the promoters ought to be be submitted to Parliament, it should not confirm the Order. But that was entirely in the discretion of the Board of Trade; and there was no appeal to Parliament from an Order of the Board of Trade, as, according to Clause 10, such Order was to have the same effect as if enacted by Parliament. Then, who were the promoters of those applications? They were, first, local bodies—municipalities, County Councils and District Councils—who were to be empowered, not merely to construct, but to work those railways; and, secondly, any individuals or limited companies. Up to the present, Parliament had only given compulsory powers, under certain safeguards, to companies incorporated by Act of Parliament for the purpose of carrying out an undertaking for the public benefit, and railway lines constructed merely to serve private interests were excluded. Those restrictions were removed in the discretion of the Board of Trade. He confessed it seemed to him a doubtful policy to turn Boards of Guardians and County Councils into amateur railway contractors and directors. Under the existing law, municipalities and local authorities were confined, in their operations under the Tramways Acts, strictly within the limits of their own districts. But, under this Bill, any local authority might construct a railway beyond its own district, in an absolutely undefined and in an absolutely uncontrolled manner, on proof, merely to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade, that such extension of the railway was expedient in the interest of the district. It would be possible, though he did not say it was probable, that under this Bill the London County Council and the Oxford County Council might make a line between Oxford and London; and it would be possible also for a company to make a tramway through the streets of London, evading all the provisions of the Tramways Acts, without the consent of the frontagers or the local authorities, and without the precautions which were taken under the Tramways Acts for the sale of those undertakings to the local bodies. At present procedure was regulated by the Standing Orders of Parliament, and by the Clauses Acts. Under those regulations, plans and sections had to be deposited at fixed periods, advertisements had to be published in the local papers, and notices had to be served on owners and occupiers of lands proposed to be compulsorily taken. It was true that, under Clause 7, the Commissioners were told to take all reasonable steps for consulting with the owners and occupiers of the lands proposed to be taken; but there were no definite instructions as to how owners and occupiers were to be informed of the proposed construction of the railway. Surely, it was absolutely necessary that there should be statutory obligations to deposit at fixed times proper plans and sections of the proposed railway? Surely, there should also be a statutory provision that notice should be given to owners and occupiers, and, where roads were used, to local authorities having control over the roads. When an application was sanctioned by the Commissioners it went before the Board of Trade for confirmation. Here, again, there were no definite instructions given to the Board of Trade, nor could there be obtained from the Bill a ghost of an idea as to how the Board of Trade would act in carrying out the large and important duties with which they were intrusted under the Bill. Sub-section (*a*) of Clause 11 enabled the Board of Trade to incorporate the Clauses Acts, which were practically an important code of laws in relation to the taking of land by railway companies, with such variations and exceptions as they might think fit. He thought it was absolutely wrong to allow any branch of the Legislature to vary statutes enacted by Parliament. Again, the Board of Trade was to appoint a single arbitrator to whom all questions of compensation for land taken compulsorily were to be referred, thus superseding the Lands Clauses Act. With the objects of the Bill in promoting railways and cheapening the cost of their construction he fully sympathised. But the Board of Trade, both in the inception of schemes and in the promotion of schemes, had practically uncontrolled power. He had great confidence in the Board of Trade. Its officials were extremely able and they always endeavoured to do their duty by the public. But the Board of Trade was a public office; its heads were political Ministers of great importance who were constantly changing, and it was impossible to say what views the heads of the Department would take in the future of the large and and unchecked powers given them by the Bill. It would be out of his power to offer any suggestions for the Amendment of the Bill in Committee, and Amendments of importance should certainly be moved in Committee of the Whole House and not in the Standing Committee to which the Bill would be referred. He would therefore make a few suggestions to his noble Friend in charge of the Bill which, if adopted, might meet to some extent the objection he took to parts of the Bill. In the first place, there should be in the Bill some definition of a light railway, or at any rate some indication of what its objects were. It was stated in the first Sub-section of Clause 5 of the Bill that where it was certified to the Treasury by the Board of Agriculture that the making of a light railway would benefit agriculture, or by the Board of Trade that by it a necessary means of communication would be established between a fishing harbour and a village, or that it would tend to the development and maintenance of some definite industry—he would add also the development of any remote or inhabited district—advances would be made by the Treasury for such light railway. He thought they should take that as an indication of the principal objects of a light railway. He also suggested that the extent of a light railway should be limited to 15 or 20 miles, unless the Light Railway Commission approved of a greater length, in which case there should be a special report to Parliament. He suggested, further, that in a given time, before the Commissioners held an Inquiry into an application made to them, plans and sections on a fixed scale should be deposited in some place where those interested could have access to them. Otherwise it would be impossible for those interested to know the effect the railway would have on properties through which it would pass. Notices should also be served on every owner and occupier whose land it was proposed to take compulsorily. The powers given to the Board of Trade to vary any Statute of Parliament should be taken absolutely out of the Bill. He should like, if it could be done, that the regulations which obviously the Board of Trade must make in consequence of this Bill should, in some way or other, be laid before Parliament for approval. He should also like to see the schemes approved by the Board of Trade laid before Parliament. They were setting a dangerous precedent in giving those large powers to a branch of the Executive absolutely uncontrolled by Parliament whose functions they had hitherto been. Whether the supervision of schemes approved by the Board of Trade should be secured to Parliament by means of Provisional Orders, as in the case of Public Health Bills, or by laying the schemes for a definite time on the Table of the House, as in the case of Charity Commissioners' Schemes, he left his noble Friend to decide, but he thought that Parliament should be cognisant of what was going on in regard to light railways. He was not in any sense hostile to the Bill. He sympathised, as he had said, with its objects. He feared that the benefits which agriculture would reap from it had been somewhat exaggerated. He did not, however, under-rate the importance of cheapening and developing local communication, especially communication between harbours and fishing villages, which could not afford large railways. But much as he sympathised with the objects of the Bill, it seemed so strong a Measure that he should scarcely be performing his duty if he did not call the attention of the House to its provisions. [*Cheers.*]

Motion agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

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## TRUCK BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

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## NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

*Lord CHURCHILL, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, explained that by the Act of 1859 establishing the Naval Reserve, the raising of volunteers and the payment of retaining fees was limited to the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark, and it was proposed by Section 1 of the Bill that the powers should be extended subject to the regulation of the

Admiralty, and that Naval Reserve men might be allowed to enrol and re-enrol, and retaining fees might be paid outside the United Kingdom, and the places mentioned. These powers were restricted, and no volunteer might be enrolled or paid outside the British Islands unless he was a British subject serving on a ship registered in the British Islands. In the opinion of Parliamentary Counsel the prohibition of the entry of Lascars could be effected by Admiralty regulation, so for this reason it was not inserted in the Bill. The opportunity had been taken in this Act to amend the Act of 1859 in another particular, and Clause 2 cleared up a slight legal doubt which existed in Clause 11 of the Act of 1859.

Read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

### JUDICIAL TRUSTEES BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed and returned to the Commons.

### UGANDA RAILWAY BILL.

Brought from the Commons: Read 1ª; and to be printed.—[No. 237.]

House adjourned at Quarter before Eight o'clock, to Thursday next, a Quarter past Four o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Tuesday, 4th August 1896.*

## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

### DUBLIN CORPORATION (RE-COMMITTED) BILL [H.L.].

Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

### LONDON UNIVERSITY COMMISSION BILL [H.L.].

Read the First time; to be read a Second time To-morrow, and to be printed.—[Bill 331.]

*Lord Churchill.*

## *QUESTIONS.*

### INCOME TAX (DUNDALK).

**MR. JAMES DALY** (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the Surveyor of Taxes, Dundalk, has charged a man named Boyd Income Tax on houses he holds from Mr. Leslie, Ballybay, and that the landlord, Mr. Leslie, has also paid Income Tax on property mentioned; and whether it is usual for landlord and tenant to pay Income Tax on the same property?

**THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY** (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The correction which the hon. Member has inserted into this Question on To-day's Paper has necessitated further inquiries being made on the spot, so perhaps the hon. Member will kindly postpone the Question till Friday next.

### TIPPERARY LABOURERS' SCHEME.

**MR. T. M. HEALY** (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what is the cause of the delay on the part of the Irish Board of Works in appointing an arbitrator in reference to the Tipperary Labourers' Scheme, the loan for which was sanctioned by the Local Government Board on 14th October last, and the local inquiry took place on 3rd May 1894?

**MR. HANBURY**: I understand that there was no delay on the part of the Board of Works in appointing the arbitrator. He was appointed on the 22nd of November last, the day following the necessary deposit by the Guardians of the expenses of the arbitration. At the meeting for the preparation of the draft award, the solicitor for the Guardians questioned the accuracy of the information as to names and tenures of the claimants on the schedules deposited by the Guardians. This led to some delay, but on the 24th June the arbitrator made and deposited his draft award for the first section of the scheme, and a day has been fixed for hearing objections thereto. The solicitor for the Guardians has required time to make further inquiries as to the property dealt with under the remaining section, and as soon as these inquiries are completed, the section will be proceeded with immediately.

### LETTERS FROM BELFAST.

Mr. S. YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, with reference to extending to Belfast an opportunity of having letters written there on Saturday evening or the forenoon on Sunday delivered in London on Monday morning, whether he will have a postal pillar or special box placed at the Great Northern Railway station wherein letters could be posted on Sunday before the departure of the 2 o'clock train for Dublin, which now runs in connection with the mail boats for passengers; and whether he is aware that such an arrangement would contribute largely to the convenience of the public without involving much, if any, additional Sunday labour to the postal officials?

Mr. HANBURY: The question raised by the hon. Member is receiving consideration. The arrangement desired would, no doubt, prove of some public convenience.

### DROWNING CASES (RIVER LEA).

Mr. LIONEL HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to loss of life by drowning resulting from the alleged want of proper fencing to protect canals and the banks of the River Lea within the Metropolitan area; and whether he could order an inspection to be made, and, if it is ascertained by such inspection that there are places unprotected through want of fencing or through the fencing or walls being out of repair, he could call upon the proper authority to make the necessary safeguards to protect life?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. C. T. Ritchie, Croydon): My attention has on several occasions been called to this matter. The Board of Trade have no power to order an inspection for such a purpose, or to put pressure on canal companies to compel them to erect fencing. I can only say that if my hon. Friend will specify the dangerous places to which he refers, I will make a representation to the companies on the subject.

### BOILER EXPLOSION (H.M.S. "BLAKE").

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Stafford, Lichfield): On behalf of the hon. Member for Devonport (Mr. H. E. Kearley), I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to the verdict of the jury as to the cause of the recent boiler explosion on H.M.S. *Blake*; whether the Admiralty are prepared to assent to their recommendation, to the effect that the widow of the stoker Evill should be provided for for life, and that her children should be succoured until they are old enough to secure a livelihood; and, what provision is proposed to be made by the Admiralty for the widow and orphans?

The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Mr. G. J. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover Square): No recommendation of the jury is necessary in these sad cases. A regular system exists under which the widows and children of seamen who lose their lives on duty in the public service are assisted from the funds of Greenwich Hospital. Such assistance will be given to the widow and children of the stoker Evill.

### MACHINE GUNS.

Mr. WARNER: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, will he explain why all regiments are not supplied with a machine gun?

*The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): As a matter of Military organisation it is held that for an army in the field it is not necessary that each battalion of infantry should have a machine gun. Each cavalry regiment will be so equipped.

### NAVAL SUB-LIEUTENANTS.

Mr. WARNER: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he can do anything to remedy the grievance that sub-lieutenants have in having to pay extra messing on promotion while they do not get lieutenant's pay until appointed to another ship?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: In some cases which have come under notice the extra messing allowance of 30s. has been paid to these officers until the date of appointment to a ship as lieutenant. There may be instances in which this has not been done, and I am looking into the matter with the view of remedying any cause of grievance.

### ALDERSHOT (TENT FLOOR BOARDS).

MR. WARNER: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether some of the troops at Aldershot are not supplied with floors for the tents in permanent camp, owing to there being an insufficient supply?

CAPTAIN PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, will he explain on what grounds it is the practice at Aldershot to provide Auxiliary Forces with floor boards for their tents during their training there, which are taken away from the Regulars for that purpose; and, whether, seeing that for medical reasons it is desirable that the Regulars who may be for many months under canvas should have the use of these boards, he will consider the advisability of providing Regular troops with boards, as is done in the case of Auxiliary troops, instead of compelling the Regulars to provide themselves with boards at their own expense?

MR. BRODRICK: By the regulations Militia are entitled to tent floor boards and the Regulars are allowed waterproof sheets, which are more adapted for mobile camps. When the General Officer commanding, acting on medical advice, considers floor boards necessary for Regulars, he can make requisition for them, and his demand will receive every consideration.

### STAFFORDSHIRE MILITIA (RIFLE RANGE).

MR. WARNER: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he has made any arrangement for acquiring ranges within reach so as to train the Staffordshire Militias in their own county, at Whittington Barracks, or in camp on the Government property there?

MR. BRODRICK: Every effort is being made to find a suitable range, but the difficulty in the locality referred to is very great, and the fact that the Military Works Bill has not been passed this Session, will necessarily delay the provision of ranges all over the country. [*Cheers.*]

### REFORMATORY SCHOOLS ACT 1876 (INDIA).

MR. HENRY J. WILSON (York, W.R., Holmfirth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian Reformatory Schools Act, 1876, does not provide for the confinement of girls, but only for boys; whether a recent Gazette of India published the draft of an amending Act which, however, makes no provision for young female offenders; whether young female offenders are confined in gaols where they are obliged to associate with professional thieves and other adult criminals; and whether he can take some steps to ameliorate this condition of affairs?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): It is the case that neither the Act nor the amending Bill contain any provision for young female offenders. Such offenders, if sentenced to imprisonment, can only be accommodated in the wards set aside for female convicts. The number of young female offenders is very small, and it may be doubted whether many of the Local Governments are in a position to provide separate Reformatories for them, but a proposal to enable this to be done is before the Select Committee to which the amending Bill has been referred, and I will also send out the hon. Member's Question and this answer for their consideration.

### MILITARY GOVERNOR OF CRETE.

MR. J. C. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can yet inform the House if it has been decided to recall Abdullah Pasha from the position of Military Governor of Crete; and what reply has been given by the Porte respecting the recommendations of the representatives of the Powers on this subject?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. GEORGE CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): I have nothing to add to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member on the same subject on the 29th ultimo.

## OPENING OF THE CRETAN ASSEMBLY.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state if the official Dispatches concerning the opening proceedings of the Cretan Convocation at Canea will be communicated to this House before the end of the present Session; and, if so, at about what date?

MR. CURZON: Any official Dispatches which may be received with regard to the opening proceedings of the Cretan Assembly will be included in the Papers which will eventually be laid on the Table. But I am afraid that I cannot at present name a date for their publication.

## NORTHWICH RAILWAY STATION.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any complaint has reached him of the danger caused to life by the deficiency of accommodation for passengers at Northwich Station, and whether he can take any action in the matter?

MR. RITCHIE: The Board of Trade have received a communication from the Northwich Urban District Council inclosing a copy of a letter addressed by the Deputy Clerk to the Manager of the Cheshire Lines Committee on this subject. The Department has also been in communication with the Committee since the Hon. Baronet's Question appeared on the Paper. The Manager denies that there is any danger, but informs me that the matter is to be brought specially to the notice of the Committee at their next meeting. The Board have no power to compel the Committee to re-model the station or supply additional accommodation.

## MILL STREET UNION ELECTION (COUNTY CORK).

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether his attention has been called to the Local Government Board Inquiry, recently held into the return of a poor law Guardian for the electoral division of Drinagh, Millstreet Union, County Cork, and the consequent new election for the guardianship ordered by them; (2) whether the votes of the following persons: Batt Linehan, Margaret O'Leary, Patrick Dennahy, Thomas Curtin, Catherine Cronin, Catherine Murphy, and Jeremiah Curtin, of Knocknageela West, were disallowed by the returning officer; and, (3) why were their votes disallowed, in view of the fact that their votes were allowed at the poor law election for the same division in 1895?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): My attention has been directed to the proceedings referred to in the first paragraph. The votes of the persons named were disallowed, as it was clear from the sworn evidence given at the Inquiry, that they did not possess the necessary qualification, at the time of the election, to vote.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Atterney General for Ireland—(1) whether his attention has been directed to the recent Poor Law Election for the division of Drinagh, Millstreet Union; (2) whether, where there is a liability to pay Poor Rate, there arises also the right to vote at a Poor Law Election, and whether the right extends to tenant purchasers also; and, (3) seeing that the Statute provides that where the occupier paying rates is not entitled to deduct any part thereof from the rent he shall have double the votes mentioned in the ordinary scale, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. ATKINSON, Londonderry) said his attention had been called to this Election. From the information supplied it would appear that the persons were under an arrangement with their landlord to pay their taxes, but were under no legal liability to the guardians to pay, and, under these circumstances, they would not be entitled to vote. Of course, where there was legal liability to pay the rate, the vote went with it. The answer to the second part of the question was therefore in the affirmative. As to the third paragraph, inasmuch as these persons not paying the rates did not come within the statute, the question of taking action in the matter did not arise.

MR. FLYNN: Would the right hon. Gentleman inform me, if these tenants are not tenant purchasers and paying all the rates, would they not come within the Statute?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND: If the tenant purchaser is under a legal liability to the Guardians to pay the rates, the vote follows as a matter of course.

## AMALGAMATION OF POOR LAW UNIONS (IRELAND) BILL.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is still proposed to introduce the Amalgamation of Poor Law Unions in Ireland Bill; and, if so, when?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I cannot undertake to pass this Measure during the present Session, but I will introduce it on Thursday next, in order that the public may become acquainted with its provisions.

## IRISH LOCAL TAXATION, ETC.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, under the Suspensory Bill dealing with the 9-80ths share of Ireland for relief of taxation, it will be possible to apply any of the money proposed to be paid into the Irish Local Taxation Account this year; and, if not, when it will be possible to apply this sum to its intended purposes?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: A Suspensory Bill does not appropriate money to specific objects, but places it to a suspense account, and the money cannot be released from the suspense account without a further Act of Parliament.

## PRISONERS AT PRETORIA.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies—(1) whether the two Reformers, Mr. Sampson and Mr. Davies, who refused to sign a petition for pardon, are still kept in prison at Pretoria; (2) whether they have sent a memorial to the British Agent at Pretoria, asserting that they laid down their arms under the promise of British protection; and, (3) whether any steps have been taken by the representatives of Her Majesty's Government in South Africa to obtain the release of these prisoners?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The two gentlemen referred to in the first paragraph of the Question are in the Pretoria prison, where they state that they are treated with every consideration and that the accommodation is now excellent. [*Laughter.*] I have received the memorial referred to in the second paragraph of the Question, in which these gentlemen state that they (meaning the Reform Committee of Johannesburg) laid down their arms under the promise of British protection. This assertion is contradicted by the High Commissioner and Sir Jacobus de Wet. In reply to the last paragraph of the Question, I have to say that, on first hearing of their refusal to join with the other Reform prisoners in petitioning for clemency, I advised them by telegraph that they would be acting not inconsistently with their own dignity and for the general good if they signed a petition to the Government of the South African Republic like their companions. I have since repeated this intimation, and beyond this I am unable to go.

MR. MACLEAN: Could not the right hon. Gentleman make an appeal to the magnanimity of President Kruger to release the two men who seem to be the best of the whole lot. [*Laughter.*]

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know anything about that, but it seems to me that it would be quite impossible for me to make such an appeal when the gentlemen themselves refuse to sign any petition. There was no reason I am aware of why they should not have joined with their fellow prisoners when the petition was originally presented to the Government. If they had, they would no doubt have been dealt with with equal clemency.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): Is it not the fact that Sir Jacobus de Wet promised them protection on the 9th of January, when the people of Johannesburg were invited to lay down their arms?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Sir Jacobus de Wet most distinctly repudiates any such statement, and it is clear he could not have made such a statement, inasmuch as when persons start an insurrection in a foreign State they must be prepared for the consequences. [*Cheers.*] The Government whose subjects they are can only interfere to secure for them a fair trial and equal treatment.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Was not the insurrection started against what the right hon. Gentleman himself describes as a bad and corrupt Government?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

## SCHOOL TREATS (HIRED WAGONS).

MR. F. B. MILDMAY (Devon, Totnes): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the owners of wagons which are annually lent, at a nominal charge, for the conveyance of school children to a school treat, are rightly informed by the officers of Inland Revenue that they thereby render themselves liable to a prosecution?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): Owners of wagons, which have been hired for the conveyance of children to a school treat, are liable to prosecution if they have not taken out licences for the wagons so used.

## RHODESIA REBELLION.

MR. MACLEAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with regard to the instructions given by him to Sir Frederick Carrington, on 25th April, that the additional troops from England will be landed at Cape Town, and forming, as they do, part of the regular garrison of the station, it is not expected that their services will be required at the front; but that, if it should be found necessary, he would be at liberty to apply for them to the High Commissioner; that all proceedings are to be reported to and instructions sought from Her Majesty's High Commissioner, whether the conditions thus imposed left Sir Frederick free to employ at once any Imperial resources, either in men or money, that might be needed to stamp out the rebellion in Rhodesia; and, whether the Colonial Secretary's telegram of 22nd June, asking if more troops were wanted, was the first intimation conveyed to Sir Frederick Carrington that the Imperial Government was prepared to give him any help he required?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member has apparently drawn a mistaken inference from the information at his command. When Sir Frederick Carrington was in London on his way to South Africa, and again at Cape Town, he was taken fully into confidence and made aware that the policy of Her Majesty's Government was to supply at once whatever forces the authorities on the spot might ask for.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL.

CAPTAIN PIRIE: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, in view of the probable re-introduction of the Public Health (Scotland) Bill, he would take measures to alter the law dealing with interment after death, so as to enable the Sanitary Authority or the Parish Council to immediately provide a coffin and to carry out the funeral in such cases where the friends of a deceased person are unable to pay for or undertake the interment themselves, instead of being obliged, as at present held to be the law, under the operation of Section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1867, to delay the interment until the corpse has become a nuisance and a danger to public health?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The point referred to by the hon. Member will be considered in the event of a Public Health (Scotland) Bill being introduced next Session.

## DISTURBANCES AT NIKSAR.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can inform the House what has been the result of the demand made to the Turkish Committee, appointed to inquire into the attack on a convent near Marash, for the arraignment of Colonel Mazhan Bey, the commander of the

Turkish troops who killed Father Salvatore and his companions at the Convent of Yenidjokale last year; whether he has any further information as to the character of the recent disturbances at Niksar in the Sivas Vilayet, in the course of which 340 Armenians and 60 Mussulmans are alleged to have lost their lives; and whether the Porte has taken any steps to restore order in this district and to punish the instigators of the massacre?

MR. CURZON: Her Majesty's Government have heard of the burning by Turkish troops of Franciscan monasteries at Yenikale, Deongee, and Mujuk Deresi, and of the assassination of Padre Salvatore, the Superior of the monastery last mentioned. They have no knowledge of the demand made to the Turkish Committee, which would probably have been made by the representative of the country of which Padre Salvatore was a native. As regards Niksar, Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond has reported that the Turks at that place attacked the Armenians at a given signal on June 20th, killing those they met and plundering their houses. Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, in a Dispatch dated July 22nd, reports that no steps have as yet been taken to bring to justice the authors of the disorders. He has called the Governor-General's attention to the feeling of uneasiness created by this fact, and Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople will make representations on the subject at the Palace and the Porte.

## CRETAN AFFAIRS.

MR. JAMES BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government can, before the Session closes, give to the House some indication of their views as to the solution of the present troubles in Crete, and particularly as to the necessity (with a view to the pacification of the island) of requiring that the Governor to be appointed should be irremovable for a fixed period, except with the consent of the Powers, and that the plan of local autonomy to be settled for the island should be placed under the guarantee of the Powers?

*Mr. Herbert Roberts.*

MR. CURZON: The whole questio is still under the consideration of th Powers, and has by no means reached a stage at which it would be possible t give an undertaking as to an earl announcement on the subject.

## PASTEUR INSTITUTE (INDIA).

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire) I beg to ask the Secretary of State fo India will he explain whether th Government of India are officially promoting the foundation there of a Pasteu Institute, or whether the Indian Medica Department is doing so; and, if so, b whose authority?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: I have no information later than 1894, when the Government of India reporte that they had promised, subject t certain conditions, the services of Medical Officer to the Pasteur Institute, which they explained was quite distinct from any Government Department.

## COLONIAL OFFICE VOTE.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when the Colonial Vote will be taken?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): As my hon. Friend is aware, there has already been a night devoted to the Colonial Vote, at least to South Africa, and other Votes certainly must come first. I am afraid I cannot promise my hon. friend a very early day for that Vote.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT asked whether it was not the fact that the House had been led to expect that an opportunity would be given on this Vote of discussing affairs in the Transvaal.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: When the Vote is taken I presume the discussion on that subject will be in order.

## LUNATICS (TRADE DEBTS).

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster): I beg to ask the Attorney

General whether a Committee, while carrying on the business of a lunatic, is responsible for the trade debts incurred in the course of business; and whether, if the business is subsequently sold to the Committee, the proceeds of sale and collection of debts being paid into court, the Master in Lunacy is justified in withholding payment of the trade debts, provided there is ample money in court for the payment of those debts; and whether, if this is the case, he will consider the necessity of making an alteration in the present law?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, Isle of Wight): The Question put to me by my hon. Friend is an abstract question of law, which I am not able to answer without further imformation as to the facts. If he will communicate with me I will make inquiries into the case and ascertain whether any Amendment of the law is necessary.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs) said it would be to the convenience of the House if the First Lord of the Treasury could kindly say what business he proposed to take on Thursday and Friday.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that to-night and to-morrow would, he imagined, be occupied by the completion of the Committee stage of the Scotch Rating Bill. If hon. Members were prepared to take the Report stage on Thursday, then of course, Friday in ordinary course would be devoted to Supply. If, however, it was thought necessary, though he hoped this would not be the case, that a day should intervene between the Committee stage and Report, he would ask the House to substitute Thursday for Friday as the day on which Supply would be taken. Monday and Tuesday of next week would be devoted to Supply.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) asked whether it was intended to take the West Highland Railway Bill that evening?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: No.

MR. MACLEAN: When does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take the Indian Budget?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: It cannot evidently be taken before the middle of next week.

MR. J. MORLEY thought it would be possible to take the report stage of the Scotch Rating Bill on Thursday. The Amendments were not numerous. Could the right hon. Gentleman give any information as to the prospects of the Irish Land Bill, and what day it might be expected?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY thought the most convenient course would be to devote Friday to Supply, as usual. Whether a Saturday sitting was necessary would largely depend on what progress was made with small Bills. As to the Irish Land Bill, he did not believe, from what he gathered, that they would be able to discuss it before next Wednesday. In any case he did not see how they could find time to discuss it. In order to give the House a remote chance of rising on Saturday week, it was necessary to finish Supply before Tuesday, in order to take the Appropriation Bill; so that Wednesday would be the first day. The West Highland Railway Bill would not be taken until Thursday.

## SHOPS.

Bill to amend the law relating to Shops, ordered to be brought in by Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. John Burns, Dr. Clark, Mr. Davitt, and Mr. Flower; presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed.—[Bill 332.]

## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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### AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS' AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) BILL.

(Considered in Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

[Progress, 3rd August.]

Clause 1,—

CLASSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND HERITAGES FOR PURPOSES OF OCCUPIERS' RATES.

As from the *fifteenth day of May next* after the passing of this Act and during the continuance thereof the annual value of all agricultural lands and heritages in Scotland—

(1) shall for the purpose of the occupiers' consolidated rate leviable by County Councils, including the portion thereof leviable under the Public Health (Scotland) Acts, be held to be the nearest aggregate sum of *pounds sterling to three-eighths of the annual value thereof* as appearing on the valuation roll; and

(2) shall for the purpose of the occupiers' share of the poor rate, the school rate, and other rates leviable by parish councils, be held to be the nearest aggregate sum of *pounds sterling to three-eighths of the annual value thereof* as appearing on the valuation roll, subject to the deductions in pursuance of Section thirty-seven of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845.

The expression "agricultural lands and heritages" means any lands and heritages used for agricultural or pastoral purposes only, or as market gardens, orchards or allotments, but does not include woodlands or land occupied together with a house as a park, garden or pleasure ground, or any land kept or preserved mainly or exclusively for sporting purposes. Provided that if any question shall arise as to the lands and heritages falling within the foregoing definition it shall be determined summarily by the sheriff, whose decision shall be final.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) moved to insert the following proviso to Sub-section (2):—

"Provided that where lands and heritages are classified in terms of Section thirty-six of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845, if it shall be certified by the Secretary for Scotland that the rates leviable on the occupiers of agricultural lands and heritages in pursuance of the classification are less than, or as nearly as may be the same as, the rates which would without classification be leviable on such occupiers in terms of this Act, such classification (hereinafter termed a certified classification) shall have effect, and this sub-section shall not apply."

He said the right hon. Member for the Stirling Burghs had more than once with characteristic modesty said that he did not pretend to understand what was effectuated by the Amendment. He could only attribute that to the fact which he read in the newspapers that the right hon. Gentleman had been closeted for a long time on Wednesday with the proprietor of the *North British Daily Mail*, who was formerly in this House, and a greater farrago of nonsense in connection with this Amendment never was written than he saw in last Saturday's *Mail*. It had its origin in this curious fact, that the gentleman who posed as a financial critic, and who had seen that the figures were mis-telegraphed, wrote a long article on the effect of the Amendments having put them into the wrong clause. [*Laughter*].

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) was understood to say that he had been misled.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: If the right hon. Gentleman had only read the *Dundee Advertiser*, which, I suppose, it is beneath him to read, he would have found that it was perfectly right. ["Hear, hear!"] Explaining the Amendment, he said the Bill valued down agricultural land for the purpose of giving relief in rating, and in a parish where there was no classification the matter worked perfectly simply. But the case of the classified parish had to be dealt with because classification did not touch the value at which lands were rated. It merely divided lands into classes, and said that one class should pay one half or a quarter of the rate paid by another class. The view taken by the Bill as it stood was that the simplest and best manner was to abolish classification altogether, and that course had certain very tempting features. In the first place, it provided uniformity. Nobody could defend the extraordinary diversities of classification which existed in the different parishes. This matter ought to be dealt with upon some general principle, and ought not to depend upon the mere accident of the prevailing idea of the local authority at the time. In the next place, the abolition of classification would make a clean slate for any future legislation—a fair field to operate on when they came to attack the subject as a whole. But there were other considerations. In the first place, the abolition of classification was not necessary to the leading principle of the Bill—namely, to put agricultural land in its proper place. Then there were certain parishes which were very fond of their classifications, and their wish to stick to them was a legitimate feeling which they did not desire to disturb if they could avoid it. Then they had the views of the Opposition. He had always wished, as far as was possible consistently with maintaining the principle of the Bill, to fall in with the views of hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite. Accordingly, when he saw the Amendment of the right hon. Member for Clackmannan excluding burghs on the Paper, he would have been very glad to take that Amendment as it stood. But there were grave difficulties in the way of adopting that course. What were they to do in a burgh where there was a landward burghal parish? It would have been a most confusing position—a position which would have necessitated a great many other complicated provisions. He took it, however, the object was quite clear. The right hon. Gentleman wanted burgh classifications left alone, and the Amendment he now moved entirely responded to the right hon. Gentleman's view. There was another consideration. The Bill originally was to be a permanent Bill—at any rate, until the whole subject was tackled. But, after the limitation introduced into the English Bill, it was quite obvious that it must be a temporary Bill. He was strongly impressed with the feeling that, the main object of the Bill having been accomplished and land having got its relief, it was not fair, simply for the sake of the boast of having the Bill unamended, to insist that burghs should give up their industrial classification during a period which was admittedly temporary. When the whole question was going to be attacked by a Commission, it would seem that they had, to a certain extent, prejudged it by doing away with classification. These latter considerations outweighed the former. He felt it was only a just concession to the right hon. Gentleman to put down the Amendment, which, in homely language, simply did this. It said the relief of agricultural land by the Bill in the unclassified parishes must be taken as the minimum of relief. If you had classification which, as a matter of fact, afforded that relief, then you could keep that classification. If you had classification which nearly afforded that relief, then, if you wanted to keep that classification, you could amend it in order to allow of it providing that minimum relief. The reason for the words "as nearly as may be" was that they did not want to put the parish to the trouble of altering its classification because the relief afforded was a few pounds less than the relief in the Act. If the Secretary for Scotland was satisfied that substantially the classification gave the relief that would be afforded by the Act, he would certify that classification. Consequential Amendments would have the effect of preventing the introduction of new classifications during this transition period. That certainly was part of their policy, because they thought that in the case of parishes not now classified things ought to remain *in statu quo* until the decision of the Commission was arrived at. So far as the Government grant was concerned, the Amendment made no difference to the Bill. The relief portion of the Bill depended on Sub-section 3 of Section 2, and that as it stood in the Bill had no relation to classification at all, for this very obvious reason. As the Bill stood they had to deal with classified and unclassified parishes, and therefore they never could have gone on dividing the money by the mere question of the rate paid by agricultural land. In other words, they had to take some common measure which would enable them to correlate classified and unclassified parishes. That common measure was found by taking the total rate paid and the proportion of the agricultural land to the total valuation of the parish. By that means they got an equitable division as between the two parishes. Three principles ran through the Bill. The first was the principle of contribution of personalty to realty; the second was the principle of rating reform; and the third was the principle of relieving agricultural distress. This contribution being made from personalty to realty, it was quite right that where one occupier had been bearing the burden as against another occupier he should be the first to get the benefit. But so far as the appropriation of the grant was concerned, there was no difference between the Bill as amended and as originally drawn. The real point which he wished to put before the Committee was that, in bringing in this Amendment, they conceived they were not sacrificing the principle of the Bill. As a concession to the other side, they said that during the transition period classification should not be disturbed so long as they secured to agricultural land the benefit which it would have under the Bill.

*MR. J. B. BALFOUR (Clackmannan and Kinross) thanked his right hon. and learned Friend for the very important concession he had made by this Amendment. Undoubtedly it was felt that the Bill, by wiping out and absolutely destroying all the existing classifications of Scotland, would work in many cases great hardship and injustice, and bring about great administrative confusion. He was not sure that the evils were altogether obviated by the Amendment, but he very gladly acknowledged the spirit in which his right hon. and learned Friend had received the representations that had been made to him. His right hon. Friend had said that there was great temptation to have uniformity. He could well understand that temptation, but he was afraid it was one of those temptations that ought to be resisted if it was likely to produce either injustice or administrative confusion. Accordingly, although, no doubt, it was very tempting to abolish all the 158 classifications and make a new classification by the Bill, that would not have operated in the direction his right hon. Friend desired, and he had now seen his way to depart from it. From the very nature of the case, uniformity of classification was impossible. The necessity for classification depended on the nature of the subject dealt with. In cases in which all the property was of one kind there was no room for classification, but in parishes where there was a variety of property, then, in a greater or less degree, the necessity for classification came in. The state of things the Government found existing before the introduction of their Bill was not to be lightly subverted, and his right hon. Friend would not be surprised that many hon. Members, knowing the consequences that would follow, had felt it their duty to represent that there was a fair case for allowing some latitude in preserving classification. But the safeguard his right hon. Friend suggested was a very limited one, because no classification would be saved by this Amendment except where the classified agricultural subject was paying at or about three-eighths. It was quite plain that there would be a very considerable body of agricultural land and other subjects where the classification was wholly wiped out, and he would point out that the only criterion or standard proposed was the rate according to which agricultural land was classified in a particular area. If in any locality agricultural land was not classified about the figure he had mentioned, the consequence would be that the whole classification of the parish would be destroyed, not only as to agricultural land, but to every other kind of property. He would instance particularly the case of mines, an exceedingly important description of property. The effect of this Bill, although it did nothing for mines and property of a similar character, would be to absolutely destroy any benefit they derived from classification. The effect of the Bill would be to level up property of that lower and rougher kind to the highest standard of the most valuable house property, so that unless his right hon. Friend accepted an Amendment on Report, the result would be that his concession would not cover the whole ground. He hoped, therefore, his right hon. Friend might see his way to save classification in a larger sense than he did by this Amendment. With regard to the Amendment itself, there were some things which he did not feel at all clear about. As the Bill stood originally, its provisions were perfectly clear and intelligible. There would have been no difficulty in working them out. There were some things that he was not clear about in the Amendment. It left county rates alone because there was no classification there. A deficiency would arise under that head—how much he could not say, but putting it at two-eighths, what was to become of the remaining three-eighths? If his right hon. Friend meant that the five-eighths was to be given where under the existing classification there was no deficiency, to whom was that to go? ["Hear, hear!"] It could not go to the agricultural holder, because he had the benefit already. ["Hear, hear!"] If it was not to go to him was it to go to other people who were not interested in agriculture at all, and if so on what principle? Because the only relief to be given by the Bill was to go to the occupiers of agricultural land. ["Hear, hear!"] As the Bill originally stood, its provisions were perfectly clear and intelligible. It separated rateable property into two classes, one paying on the gross and the other on the net. The one paid upon the gross rental—for example in the case of county rates, and the other on the net rental—for example in the case of poor and school rates; and taking these two classes, which between them included nearly the whole county rates, agricultural property was to pay three-eighths upon all indifferently, leaving five-eighths to be contributed by the annual contribution. What was the effect of the Amendment? The first head of the rates was left alone because there was no classification, and the Amendment did not touch that. The Secretary for Scotland could take no cognisance of any deficiency except one arising under the county rate—that was to say, under Sub-section (1); because no other could arise under the provisions of the Bill, and there was no machinery for finding out any other deficiency. The only relief this Bill was to give, according to its title and provisions, was relief to the occupiers of agricultural lands and heritages in Scotland; and this Amendment, he thought, went beyond that in a manner which he considered objectionable, inasmuch as it would give relief where, according to the contention of the Government, depression did not exist.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said the fears of his hon. and learned Friend arose from a complete misapprehension. Out of the total classification, 64 parishes had only two classes. That was practically the Bill, because the one class was agricultural land, and the other was all the other lands. As to the rest, 76 parishes had three classes, 13 had four, 4 had five, and 1 had six. So that when they came to speak of complicated classifications, they had very few such cases to deal with; and as the matter worked out, they would find that most of the parishes would be entitled to be certified at once. The whole argument of his hon. Friend had gone upon the idea that the Government grant depended upon the Secretary for Scotland certifying the deficiency. But what the Bill really said was that the part of the occupiers' rate which represented the proportion borne by the valuation of agricultural lands and heritages in the rateable value to the total valuation of the rateable area should to the extent of five-eighths thereof, ascertained and certified by the Secretary for Scotland, be taken as the deficiency. There was not the slightest cause to inquire whether there was *de facto* or not a deficiency. They simply went to the valuation in order to get the proportion that agricultural land bore to other land; then, having applied that proportion to the total occupiers' rate in the parish, they took three-eighths, and having got a figure for each parish they arrived at the money to be got from Parliament, and they divided that according to the certified figures so that each got its share. What the parish did was to apply this money to the payment of the rates. The operation of the Bill by writing down the valuation necessarily made a hole in those rates.

*MR. J. B. BALFOUR asked the right hon. Gentleman whether, if the money was paid to the local authority, and if the agricultural ratepayer had already got this relief, what was the authority or principle to warrant under a Bill of this kind the payment to persons other than agriculturists?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said it was all very well to speak of the agricultural ratepayer having already got the relief, but he had only got it by classification as a substitute for the relief otherwise provided in the Bill by writing down. Then as to the justification for giving money in this way, it followed from this principle that the real *causa causans* of giving the money was a contribution of personalty to realty.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said that, as he understood the Amendment, in certain parishes classification was retained, and these parishes were withdrawn from the purview of the Bill altogether. There was nothing fictional or fictitious about the deficiency. In the first instance the Bill was carefully devised and perfectly consistent, and Section 2 harmonised with the rest of the Bill. Now this change had been made, but the formula which had been devised for a necessary deficiency of rates was retained; the money which would come from the application of that formula would be in the hands of the Secretary for Scotland, and would be distributable under the later provisions of the Bill, and would, in his view, necessarily go in general relief of rates. If so, other classes of property which had been excluded by the rulings of the Chair would be let in. They had been prevented on that side of the House from moving Amendments which suggested the application of any of this money to anything but agriculture, but this proposal was on all fours with those that had been ruled out of order. He had himself upon the Paper an Amendment to charge the valuation of dwelling-houses of under £15 a year rental. The Amendment, taken in connection with the framework of the Bill, was a preposterous one, and legislation by sham certificates which did not represent any relief at all was a course which the House ought not to take.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said the hon. and learned Member had misinterpreted the effect of the Amendment. He seemed to suggest that the effect of this Amendment would be to do away with a real deficiency that would have existed under the Bill as it originally stood. Supposing a parish in which classification existed, and the effect of it was that agricultural land was taken at three-eighths. The Bill, as it originally stood, swept away that classification and substituted the provision in the Bill that the agricultural land should be taken at three-eighths. As far as agricultural land was concerned, the same state of things would exist in that parish before the Bill and under the Bill. The deficiency was exactly the same in the two cases. The only effect of the Amendment was that it prevented the abolition of classification as regards a certain number of non-agricultural subjects. It avoided the inconvenience of doing away with local systems of classification. The hon. and learned Gentleman maintained that the deficiency was fictional. It was no more so under the Amendment than under the original Bill. The money would, under the Amendment, go to precisely the same persons as it would have done under the Bill as it originally stood.

MR. ALEXANDER ASHER (Elgin Burghs) said that there could be no doubt that the Amendment was of very great importance. It went a step in the direction of minimising the evil effects of the Bill. But he suggested that the Amendment would be improved by the omission of all the words from "1845" to "in terms of this Act." The effect of that change would be to save all existing classifications in Scotch parishes. Was it worth while, for the sake of the sentiment of adhering to the idea of the principles of the Bill—the relief of agriculture—to interfere with existing systems of classification, merely to make them level up to the imaginary standard created in the Bill? Had the Lord Advocate considered the effect of the Amendment on the classification which at present existed under the Public Health Act? In counties that classification followed the classification under the Poor Law. But in burghs there was an absolute statutory classification with reference to public health. Was it to be annihilated or preserved? He could not agree with what some of his hon. Friends had said with regard to the financial aspects of this Amendment. The scheme was that the whole of the rates to which the Bill applied were to be taken as paid in the year 1896; and that gross amount was to be apportioned as between each rating area.

MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs) said that the Opposition maintained on the Second Reading, and still maintained, that to impose a compulsory and, as it were, an Imperial classification, was to act in many instances in contravention of the expressed wishes of the localities. Their proposition was alternative. It was either this, that no money should go to the parishes in question, or else, if the money did go to the parishes in question, it would go for the relief ultimately of those who were non-agricultural occupiers. They wanted to know distinctly whether, under the scheme of the Amendment, the money was to go to those parishes or whether it was to be denied to them. If it was to be denied to the parishes they could say nothing except to express astonishment. On the other hand, if it was to go to the parishes he must ask the Lord Advocate to answer this point—did it not necessarily follow from the Amendment he had produced that the benefit of the money going to these classified parishes would be receivable only, or in great part, by those who were non-agricultural occupiers? If so, it appeared to him to be in direct defiance of the title of the Bill, and he should ask the Chairman's ruling as to whether the Amendment was competent.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) wanted to know practically what the Government meant by the Amendment. He had heard both Law Officers and ex-law officers expounding it, and still he did not know what it meant. [*Laughter.*] If this Amendment was carried would the parishes in question get any money at all? And if they did not, where would the money go to?

MR. ASHER moved an Amendment to the Lord Advocate's Amendment, to leave out from "if" in the second line to "such" in the second last line.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said there was no doubt that, if parishes were classified parishes, they would get their share of the grant. As to the question asked by his hon. and learned Friend opposite, he had to say that the Amendment made no difference. It left the disposition of the money as to the persons who were practically relieved by it exactly as the Bill did, and therefore the Amendment was not out of order. As regarded the Amendment of the hon. Member for the Elgin Burghs, he could not accept it for the reason that they did not think it consistent with what they believed to be the main object of the Bill—namely, to secure this relief to agricultural land. They did not think it fair to allow anyone to get less relief for agricultural land than he would get under the Bill. With regard to the classification of subjects under the Public Health Acts in burghs, the Bill did not touch that. He was not astonished that there should be a little difficulty about seeing that, because the matter was very technical, but he proposed to add words to make it quite clear. If only in common kindness to local authorities, words ought to be added, that was to say, in Clause 5, and he proposed after "assessment" to insert "leviable by County Councils." As the matter was somewhat complicated, it was deemed desirable to make it clear that the rate was that leviable by County Councils, and the assessment by the county authority would not touch the boroughs.

MR. ASHER moved to amend the proposed Amendment by leaving out the words "if it shall be certified by the Secretary of State for Scotland that the rates leviable on the occupiers of agricultural lands and heritages in pursuance of the classification are less than, or as nearly as may be the same as, the rates which would, without classification, be leviable on such occupiers in terms of this Act."

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said they would stay exactly where they were, and would not be touched by the Bill. The only classification touched or saved was the Poor Law classification, and the classification of 1867 was not a Poor Law but a Public Health Act classification, not leviable on the Poor Rate at all.

SIR JOHN KINLOCH (Perthshire, E.) said the Amendment appeared to him to be perfectly clear and logical. The Bill was to assist agricultural holders in classified and unclassified parishes. In order to assist agricultural occupiers in classified parishes, a deficit was created, and this deficit was made up by occupiers of other property. What would happen now was perfectly clear. By the Amendment the deficit created and put upon other industries would be paid by the Government as in unclassified parishes. Nothing could be clearer, and it seemed to him that an unnecessary amount of discussion had been raised upon this matter.

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that he had no desire to take part in this controversy, and, in fact, he had a strong desire in the other direction. If he did take part in it he should probably find himself between the upper and the nether millstone, a position he had no wish to occupy. But he wished to direct the attention of the Committee, and more particularly the Chairman, to another point involved in this controversy, and upon which he would like to have something in the nature of a ruling from the Chairman. As the Committee would observe, the title of the Bill was of an exceedingly explicit character, it divided the objects of the Bill into certain distinct heads. It described the Bill as one to amend the law with respect to the classification of lands and heritages for the purposes of rating in Scotland—that was one object. Further, it went on to describe it as for the relief of occupiers of agricultural lands and heritages, and then it went on to specify the two other objects. The Committee would observe that so far as it was a Bill for the relief of occupiers, it was for the relief only of occupiers of agricultural lands and heritages. The learned Lord Advocate spoke of classification as a means of relieving certain kinds of property, but there was nothing in the title of the Bill to recognise relief being given in that way or by that method, the relief to be given was to be given to occupiers of agricultural lands and heritages. It had been pointed out that, according to the Lord Advocate's explanation of the effect of the Amendment, the money which would come from the equivalent grant would practically go in these classified parishes not to agricultural occupiers, but to other classes of occupiers entirely.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said that was not due to the Amendment.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he would point out that that would be the effect of it. The Lord Advocate said this did not alter the Bill, but it only showed that the Bill itself was in conflict with its title, and upon this point he wished to have some authoritative opinion expressed from the Chair, whether the title of the Bill was not so strict—if he were to criticise it he would say it was unnecessarily strict—if the title of the Bill was not so strict as to practically put out of order any part of the Bill which purposed to relieve any occupiers other than agricultural occupiers, and *a fortiori* whether the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman which brought that object more prominently before the Committee was not also out of order. Several of his hon. Friends had endeavoured to move, in one way or another, Amendments to the Bill, in order to restore some part of the relief to those very classes of occupiers who the Committee were now told were to be relieved under the provisions of this clause, and they were told that their Amendments were out of order.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said the question was involved in some difficulty, especially to one who was not intimately acquainted with the Scottish system of valuation and assessment, but first he had to say that it did not seem to arise here. It was a question that perhaps would arise upon the 4th Clause, when it would come to be decided how the money was to be distributed. It also appeared to him, as far as he had been able to understand it, that the effect of the Amendment proposed by the Lord Advocate would be this—that, whereas in classified parishes before the Bill came into operation, there was a deficit, and that deficit had to be filled up by other ratepayers, under the Amendment, if it was inserted and the Bill passed, that deficit would not be filled up by other ratepayers, but by the State; therefore, in so far, the holders of agricultural land would be benefited. [*Cries of* "No, no!"]

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that was just the point. He could perfectly understand the Chairman being somewhat confused as to the effect of the Bill, for in this particular it was difficult to understand, but what the Committee had before them now was the fact that this money, when given in this case, would have the practical effect of relieving occupiers of all kinds of property from the necessity laid upon them before of filling up this deficit.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS held that the Amendment did not alter the Bill. The Amendment could not be more out of order than the Bill, and whether the Bill itself was out of order was not for him to decide. That was an objection to be taken on or before the Second Reading. The Amendment did not go beyond the provisions of the Bill, and therefore the Amendment was in order.

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) asked would the effect of this ruling be that if Members of the Committee proposed Amendments giving relief to other ratepayers, these would not be beyond the scope of the Bill, and therefore in order?

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said he must see the Amendment before he could decide that. If they proposed to do more for non-agricultural holders than the Bill did, then the Amendments would be out of order, but so long as they did only the same as the Bill did for occupiers, they would be in order.

MR. E. ROBERTSON said the change in classification had the indirect result of giving relief to other than agricultural occupiers; except so far as this result followed, the Bill did not relieve non-agricultural tenants. This new Amendment would cut out of the Bill a certain portion of Scotland, and, taken in connection with the rest of the Bill, affected the relief given to non-agricultural land. This, he submitted, essentially changed the character of the Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said he had nothing to add to the ruling he had given, and if Members of the Committee were not satisfied, the proper time to raise the question would be when Clause 4 was reached.

MR. C. B. RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) said he had followed with interest the discussion on the Amendment, and should be glad if the Lord Advocate, seeing the reception it had met with from hon. Members opposite, now saw his way to withdraw it. As he understood the Bill, the clause was simple and practical, and he was not in the least surprised that the introduction of the Amendment should have caused difficulties. The Amendment was put upon the Paper with the object of meeting objections of hon. Members opposite, but instead of it doing that they had looked this gift horse most steadily in the mouth, and would have nothing to do with it. The hon. Member for East Perthshire was an exception, and his remarks came like a breezy tonic. It seemed to him, both in regard to the Amendment and the points of order, that even with the Amendment, the Bill did not differ in its operation in classified parishes from what it did before. He did not see that the Bill did other than sweep away the existing and introduce a new classification. It must have been perfectly obvious to anybody who studied the Bill when it was introduced that its effect would be absolutely different in the classified and unclassified parishes. Under the Bill as brought in it was quite clear that the relief went practically to the agricultural tenants. He was aware that a considerable storm had been raised in his own constituency and in those of the neighbourhood as to the effect of the Bill. He had heard plaintive cries from Greenock and Paisley. He had given careful consideration to all the matters placed before him—and a great deal of it was most inaccurate—in regard to the operation of the Bill in these two parishes. On the Second Reading he pointed out that, so far as Greenock was concerned, there had been very considerable misstatement as to the effect of the Bill there. In the case of Paisley the effect of the Bill would be to have restored, so far as the larger half of the parish was concerned, the system of classification which had obtained in it up to within 12 months ago. In respect of the landward part of the parish of Paisley, there would be substantial benefit to the agricultural class in regard to their county rates. The benefit in respect to parish rates would accrue, not directly to the farmer, but to those at whose expense the farmer at the present time was benefited. The hon. Member quoted an instance of a classified parish in his own constituency to show that the benefit under the Bill as originally introduced would go, not directly to the farmer, but to those in the parish at whose expense up to the time of the passing of the Bill agricultural land had been relieved. He appealed to the Government to reconsider their attitude towards the Amendment. In his view the proposals of the Bill as first submitted were the best proposals. They were perfectly simple, and were far more intelligible than were those now before the Committee. If they were adhered to they would go a long way towards paving the way for the arrangement by the Central Authority of the whole system of rating in the rural parts of Scotland.

MR. ALEXANDER URE (Linlithgow) said the Lord Advocate had stated in quite clear and distinct terms that he did not purpose, by preserving classification, to deprive classified parishes of the equivalent grant. But then, was it not plain that he must make some Amendment upon the 2nd Clause of the Bill? It appeared to him that it was because the right hon. Gentleman had not quite clearly seen the effect of the Amendment upon the 1st Clause that he had put down no Amendment to the 2nd Clause. The opening words of that clause were obviously not applicable to classified parishes. It began by stating that "the deficiency arising in the produce of the rates under the provisions of this Act," and so on. In a classified parish there would be no deficiency—certainly no deficiency produced by the provisions of the Bill. If the Lord Advocate would make it perfectly clear that the equivalent grant was to be given to all the parishes in Scotland classified and unclassified, the Opposition would be satisfied so far as that point was concerned. It was quite certain that in a classified parish, when agricultural lands were rated at a lower rate than they appeared in the Valuation Roll, a deficiency was at the outset created. Then the rating authority set itself to fill up that deficiency by raising the assessment upon other classes of property in the district. A great deal, therefore, might be said in favour of the view advanced from these Benches to the effect that when you were giving an equivalent grant to such parishes you were really giving it to those people who had, when classification was first introduced, filled up the deficiency caused by lowering the valuation of agricultural land. But then, do not let it be suggested that the benefit was to be confined to agricultural lands and heritages. It would inevitably go to all classes of ratepayers in the classified parishes, and especially to those people whose valuation was raised at the time when the classification was fixed. What the Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for Elgin Burghs asked was that the Government, having agreed to preserve classification, should not do the thing by halves, but should recognise that each rating authority that had been classified had done it upon scientific principles—that it had considered its local needs and requirements, and had fixed its classification having these in view. Why should Parliament, without any knowledge of the locality and of its requirements, alter the classification which the local authorities themselves had fixed? Why should they not recognise that the classification had been laid down by those best able to judge of the needs of their own locality? Why, if the change was such a very slight one, should the Lord Advocate seek to substitute an artificial and stereotyped rating such as he had prescribed in the Bill for the rating fixed by the localities themselves?

*MR. ALEXANDER WYLIE (Dumbartonshire) said, that from his experience of classified and unclassified parishes in his county, he must dissent from the opinion of his hon. and learned Friend that classification in Scotland was based on scientific principles. It was the very reverse. And as to the non-agricultural ratepayers who were to be benefited, he put the case of two parishes existing side by side, one classified and giving five-eighths deduction to the agricultural occupier, and another without classification. By the Bill as it stood the five-eighths would have gone direct into the pockets of the agricultural ratepayers in the unclassified parish, while in the classified parish it would go into the pockets of those who had made up this sum to the agricultural occupier. He could not see any objection to these ratepayers who had been relieving the agricultural ratepayers in the past being relieved of the burden. He would much prefer to have seen the Bill kept as it was first brought forward. When the Lord Advocate introduced the Bill, he said that it would do away with existing classification, and the anomalies which, under the existing law, arose between parish and parish. He was only sorry that the right hon. Gentleman had not persevered in that view.

SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN said that the Amendment had been taken objection to on the ground that these existing classifications did not stand on a scientific basis. It was rather difficult to say what a scientific basis of rating was. In his opinion it was to rate everybody all round on his real property. These classifications sprung from the will and judgment of the locality, and therefore he preferred them to any other system. He did not like the original proposal in the Bill, he did not like the Amendment, and he did not altogether like the state of things that would be left by his hon. Friend; but he infinitely preferred it to the other two. What was the object of the Government in their Amendment? It was that the relief should go to the agricultural occupier. It was, in fact, to carry out the object of the Bill, against which he and his Friends had been protesting at every stage. Therefore, those of them who thought that agricultural ratepayers had no greater title to relief than any others, contended that it was not their business to see that in these classified parishes they should be cut down to three-eighths. If public money was to go to the classified parishes, which he thought was very unjust, then, in heaven's name, let the other ratepayers have their share as well as the agricultural ratepayers.

MR. J. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that under the Bill as it originally stood there could be no classification. Therefore, putting together Sub-section (1), Clause 1, and Sub-section 3 of Clause 2, it was clear that the deficiency which arose from the fact that all agricultural rating was reduced by five-eighths, and all that would have been due in respect of the loss was to be replaced under Sub-sections 3 and 4 of Clause 4, it surely followed that under the Bill as it originally stood, the relief would never in any case have gone to anyone but the agricultural occupiers. He failed altogether to see how it could be said that the relief could have gone to anyone else. Under the Amendment of the hon. and learned Gentleman it was clear that the relief would go to other persons. After giving the best attention that he could to the subject, he had not been able to see how anyone but agricultural occupiers could have been relieved under the Bill as it originally stood.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said he was under the impression that if the Amendment were accepted their money would not go into the pockets either of the agricultural ratepayers or the other ratepayers. That being so, he would ask the Lord Advocate whether he would consider the point and see whether some alteration was not necessary.

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 158; Noes, 66.—(Division List, No. 376.)

Words inserted.

MR. T. SHAW moved, at the end of Sub-section (2), after "1845," to insert the following words:—

"Provided always that, in the case of any holding in a crofting parish, the Crofters' Commission in fixing whether for the first or any subsequent time a fair rent for such holding shall not be entitled to take into account the relief effected by this Act from a proportion of the consolidated rate, poor rate, and other rates before mentioned."

The point raised by the Amendment was one of the greatest importance to the Highlands of Scotland. In introducing this Measure the Lord Advocate had expressly declared that it was not one intended merely to give a dole to the landlords. Unless this provision were inserted in the Bill there could be no doubt that at the next valuation of fair rents the landlords would obtain the whole benefit of the rebate in the rates.

MR. DONALD NICOL (Argyll) supported the Amendment.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he would be happy to accept the Amendment, but suggested the omission of the words "whether for the first or any subsequent time," and "from a proportion of the consolidated rate, poor rate, and other rates before mentioned."

MR. T. SHAW assented to the first suggested omission, but not to the second.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE moved to omit from the proposed Amendment the words "whether for the first or any subsequent time."

Amendment agreed to.

Original Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

*THE CHAIRMAN ruled that the following Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Dundee (Mr. E. Robertson) was out of order:—At the end of Sub-section (2) to insert—

"And the annual value of dwelling-houses in any Royal, parliamentary, or police burgh in Scotland, entered on the valuation roll as of a rent or annual value not exceeding fifteen pounds, shall, for the purpose of all rates leviable by the Town Council, or Police Commissioners, or the commissioners of such burgh, be held to be the nearest aggregate sum of pounds sterling to one half of the rent or annual value thereof as appearing on the valuation roll."

MR. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs), on behalf of Mr. J. WILSON (Govan), moved, after the word "heritages," to insert the words—

"not including land that has an appreciable value more than agricultural value."

The Amendment raised a principle which was discussed at considerable length on the English Bill. They contended that by a Bill which dealt with agricultural depression relief should not be given to land in the neighbourhood of towns which was rapidly rising in value owing to its proximity to a good market, and which could not, therefore, be said to be suffering from agricultural depression. In Scotland there were many instances of this; in the neighbourhood of Glasgow and of many large towns land had increased from a merely agricultural value to a value of thousands of pounds. This was obviously not agricultural land, and ought not to obtain relief under the Bill. On the English Bill the Government admitted the absurdity, but said that it was one of the unfortunate drawbacks in connection with this Bill that some people would gain from it who ought not to. He submitted that the case with regard to Scotland was a very strong one. In the late Parliament a Resolution was adopted embodying the principle that owners of land such as that dealt with by this Amendment ought to pay more taxation than it did at present. That principle was admitted by both sides of the House, and there was not, he ventured to say, a burgh Member for Scotland who was not pledged to vote for increased taxation on such land. They were all in favour of the taxation of land values, and yet they were going to support a Bill to give relief to such land.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he was afraid he could not accept the Amendment. The expression "agricultural lands and heritages" was limited by the section to "any lands and heritages used for agricultural or pastoral purposes only." They must remember that they were dealing only with an occupiers' rate, and not with the owners' taxation at all, and with land which was used for agricultural and pastoral purposes only.

MR. J. COLVILLE (Lanark, N.E.) heartily supported the Amendment. He thought it was unreasonable that such land as was dealt with by the Amendment should be enhanced in value.

MR. DALZIEL called attention to the case of land near a town which was held by the owner, often to the disadvantage of the community, in order that he might eventually get a considerable price for it. Such land would come under the Bill as "pastoral" land.

MR. E. ROBERTSON cited the case of Dundee, where the inhabitants had had to pay £30,000 for land which had been thus held for many years, and which they wished to acquire for a park.

MR. JOHN G. HOLBORN (Lanark, N.W.) said that in his neighbourhood two-thirds of the paupers came from the agricultural districts. Within the last 10 years the town where he lived had spent £140,000 in an improvement scheme because they could not get land on the confines of the town, and had to rebuild in the centre. He knew land which was bought at £40 an acre and was sold at £2,000 an acre. The effect of the Bill in every one of the large towns would be to enable the landlords to hold up this accommodation land. He hoped that every burgh Member would support the Amendment, and do something to break the back of this land monopoly, which was such a weight on the enterprise of the community. He had that morning received a request from a meeting of representative working men in Glasgow to oppose the Bill. He was sure that the clause would be condemned throughout Scotland.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said that there were special circumstances connected with the letting of building land round the towns which made it a very different case from that of the crofters. This land was only let from year to year, or for shorter periods even, so that it might be available for building; and therefore the benefit of the relief under the Bill must go to the owners. This highly-rented land, with its enormous capital value, would obtain a large proportion of the total sum given by the Bill. In towns like that which he represented there had been a strong feeling that such land ought to be taxed on its capital value in aid of the rates of the neighbouring community.

Mr. J. M. WHITE (Forfar) asked the Lord Advocate whether he would be willing to accept a proviso that occupiers of this land near towns should have the relief under existing leases, but not after their expiry.

Dr. CLARK said that the land near towns which was used by the butcher and the cowkeeper was paying 100 per cent. higher rent than the same class of land further away from the market. He wished to prevent the owner of such land getting the benefit of the Bill. It was not let on leases, and at present, if it were within the burgh, it was only paying rates on one-fourth of its value, because it came under the public health classification. He hoped the Government would accept an Amendment on the Paper, which would practically exclude all burgh land from the benefit of the Bill. The Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes, of which Lord Salisbury himself was a Member, suggested that this burgh land should be taxed on its capital value.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN suggested that the Government should endeavour to be consistent with itself. Now, in the English Bill, they spent many hours over something which they called, on this barbarous side of the Border, accommodation land—[*laughter*]—and his recollection was that the President of the Local Government Board admitted in the fullest terms that accommodation land ought to be excluded, but unfortunately he was not able to frame a definition of accommodation land. They had nothing to do with accommodation land in Scotland, but they knew perfectly well what they meant by the pieces of land referred to, and they required no better definition than was given in one or other of the Amendments on the Paper. He hoped the Lord Advocate would remove from the scope of this relief the land in question, on the ground that the relief would in Scotland go directly into the pockets of the landlords.

*The LORD ADVOCATE admitted that in some cases, no doubt, the relief might go into the pockets of the landlords, but they could not alter a general system because in one particular sporadic instance something might happen to defeat their intention. The definitions proposed would only lead them into an inextricable maze. Of the agricultural land within burghs in Scotland the valuation was, roughly, about £170,000, while the total valuation of the burghs in Scotland was 12 millions. Accordingly, as the grant was given by the proportion which the valuation of the agricultural land bore to the whole valuation, it was perfectly evident that very little of the grant would go to the land in question.

Captain PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) said the voting down of Scotch Members by an English majority without any answer being attempted to be made to their arguments, was only a sample of the way Scotch business had been treated in the past, and he was afraid it would be so in the future. He trusted the Scotch people would understand the propensities of this Government in introducing a Bill of this sort.

Sir R. REID said this was not a question of land in a burgh or land outside a burgh, and therefore the interesting statistics of the Lord Advocate did not apply. He contended that there was no difficulty in defining accommodation land, which it was admitted was not entitled to the benefit of this Bill. Such a definition had been made in the case of Irish land. The plea of the Lord Advocate was not tenable at all. He did not say they could define accommodation land with the most rigid precision, but substantially it could be done with the greatest possible ease.

Mr. DALZIEL said what was aimed at by the Amendment was land that was improved by the industry of the community, land not naturally valuable, but made valuable by the enterprise and industry of the community round about. As to the question of definition, the Lord Advocate knew that a definition was inserted in the Irish Land Bill. The position of the right hon. Gentleman was totally indefensible, and the opinion of the Committee must be taken on the Amendment.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 70; Noes, 158.—(Division List, No. 377.)

*Mr. J. McLEOD (Sutherland) said the object of the Amendment he had now to move was to limit the Bill to the particular class it professed to relieve—namely, agricultural occupiers. The effect of the Bill as it stood would be that tenants of large sheep runs who had no agricultural land whatever would get a considerable amount of relief, and he could not see the slightest reason for giving them this relief. He read to the Committee on the previous day a list showing the enormous size of some of these sheep runs, and clearly it would be outside the object of the Bill to relieve these tenants, who were large capitalists well able to take care of themselves, and who were not suffering from the alleged agricultural depression. Experience in his own constituency led him to believe that, instead of these tenants suffering under any grievance of valuation, the very opposite was the case ; and while the small agricultural occupiers, who mainly cultivated the soil, had received very small, if any, reductions in rent, these pastoral tenants, who might be termed "sheep lords" or "wool kings," had received reductions in rent amounting to 20, 30, 40, and more per cent. It would be going outside the object of the Bill to give relief in these instances. He had guarded against any possible grievance by proposing that only those who had purely pastoral subjects should be excluded from the benefits of the Bill. A favourite argument of the Lord Advocate was that under the present system farmers were taxed upon their stock-in-trade, but in this case the argument did not apply, for beyond some shelters for the sheep and shepherds' houses, there was no stock-in-trade upon these huge runs. To give the Committee some idea of the class of tenants he referred to, he mentioned that in his county there were holdings of 100,000 and 150,000 acres. It would be absurd to give the relief contemplated by the Bill in such cases. He moved, in the last paragraph of the clause, after the words "agricultural or," to insert the words "partly agricultural and partly."

*The LORD ADVOCATE said this Amendment would have the effect of cutting out all land used for pastoral purposes only. It could not be said that such land had not suffered from depression, and you could not get out of the application of a general principle just because particular persons might be rich. He would also remark that even if the Amendment was passed it would be a most easy thing to defeat it, because a man had only to attach half an acre of agricultural land to his holding and then he would come within the Bill.

Mr. ROBINSON SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire) hoped his hon. Friend would not press his Amendment. Sheep breeders in the Highlands might be millionaires, but in his county some very poor men had to breed sheep, and for some years they had had a very hard time. He did not believe in doles, but if doles were going sheep-breeders must not be excluded.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. T. R. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) moved, in the last paragraph of the clause, after the word "only," to insert the words "cottage gardens." This Amendment had been put in the English Bill, and he hoped the Lord Advocate might see his way to accept it. The object of the Bill being to benefit the largest number of those interested in agriculture, they should endeavour to include the class for which his Amendment provided.

*The LORD ADVOCATE was sorry he could not accept the Amendment. It was true his desire was to follow the English Bill, and certainly he had no animus against the holders of cottage gardens. But practically the Amendment would not do very much for them. There was no means of distinguishing cottage gardens in the valuation roll, and a troublesome and expensive inquiry would have to be instituted in order to ascertain what the subjects were. Cottage gardens generally went along with cottages as part of the conditions of their tenure, and the rents were paid, not by the occupiers of the cottages, but by those who gave them.

Amendment negatived.

*Mr. J. B. BALFOUR moved to leave out the words "or as market gardens, orchards." He did not think that, without a statutory definition, anyone would bring either of these kinds of holdings under the head of agricultural land. They related to occupation of a different kind altogether. Horticulture was as different from agriculture as a garden was from a field. That must have been felt by the framers of the Bill, because if market gardens or orchards would have fallen under any natural or ordinary definition of agricultural land, it would not have been necessary to mention them expressly as was done. The Lord Advocate had resisted the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy on the ground that any appreciable value, apart from agricultural value given to land, was capital value not presently realisable. But in the case of market gardens and orchards, the increased value was eminently value derived from present use. Market gardens and orchards had notoriously a very much higher letting value than agricultural land—probably two or three times the letting value of the latter; and it would be against the principle of the Bill—against the idea of relieving a distressed industry—to include them. The relief given would be proportionate to the rates paid, and they were paid according to the value. Therefore, the higher the letting value, the higher the rate and the greater the relief. They would be relieving in the inverse ratio to the necessity for it. Market gardens were generally in proximity to towns, and derived a great deal of their value from that proximity. The Government did not see their way to exclude accommodation land, but that was all the more reason for not giving an unnatural extension to the definition of agricultural land.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE did not feel justified in this case in departing from the provision in the English Bill. He remembered that, during the discussions on the Scotch Parish Councils Bill, they used to cast across the Table, in reference to Amendments proposed to that Bill, the phrase that the latest sense of Parliament on this or that point had been taken in the English Bill. He thought the latest sense of Parliament in this matter had been taken in the English Bill, and he preferred to have uniformity between Scotland and England on this point. This was not a question of enhanced value derived from the industry of other people. The value of a market garden did not depend so much upon its position as from the extra wealth of culture which was put into the subject. The right hon. Gentleman said that the relief here would be given in inverse proportion, because the rate was high. That was always true when they relieved a rate. The man who paid a higher rate would always get more than a man who paid a lower rate. But it did not follow that he got more relief in another way, because a high rent and a high rate might press as heavily on one man as a low rent and a low rate pressed on another. When they came to the general question of whether a person who held land should be rated upon his whole stock-in-trade, precisely the same considerations came to the front in the case of market gardens and orchards (of which there were not many in Scotland) as in the case of agricultural land. He did not see any ground for making a distinction between the English and Scotch Bills in this respect.

MR. BRYCE contended that whichever way this matter was looked at, it did not come within the scope of the Bill. It was not a question purely of rating, neither was it a case of agricultural depression, because there was no industry which flourished more in the neighbourhood of large towns than that of market gardening. The very growth of population, which was not accepted as a reason for dealing with accommodation land, was, at any rate, a reason for not bringing market gardens within the scope of the Bill. He did not think that the argument that, though this was a Scotch Bill, no distinction could be made between it and the English Bill, was a proper argument to be addressed to a Committee which consisted chiefly of Scotch Members.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie) could not see how a distinction could be drawn between agricultural land and market garden land. What was a market garden? If he happened to be tenant of a field, and he devoted it to the growth of cabbages, would he place himself beyond the purview of the Bill? What crops were market garden crops, and what were agricultural crops? He thought it would be a great injustice to market gardeners to exclude them from the Bill.

If it was argued that, because a man's rental was high he was making money, he disagreed entirely with it. Misfortunes were quite as likely to occur to the man paying a high rent as to the man paying a low rent.

*Mr. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) thought that nobody, who was at all familiar with agriculture would have any difficulty in making the distinction between agricultural land and market gardening land. Had the Lord Advocate really considered the greatly-increased value of land turned from agricultural land into market gardening land? Some lands had been quadrupled in value by the process. While it was no doubt an agricultural matter, he did think it was worthy of consideration whether land which in some cases had been quadrupled in value should be relieved under the Bill.

Amendment negatived.

Sir ROBERT REID moved, after the word "allotments," to insert the words—

> "or which are occupied at a rental of less than ten pounds a year by farm servants or other persons employed mainly or exclusively for agricultural or pastoral purposes."

His object was, he said, assuming for the purposes of the Amendment that the benefit of the Bill was to be confined to the agricultural interest, to include those who seemed to him most in need of relief. He had defined these persons, by reference to their occupations, as persons employed mainly or exclusively for agricultural or pastoral purposes. It might be said that there was a difficulty in deciding who would be entitled under the Amendment, but it seemed to him that there would be no greater difficulty in finding out the men connected with agriculture than in finding out what lands were occupied for agricultural purposes.

*The LORD ADVOCATE was afraid he could not accept the Amendment, because it introduced a perfectly novel principle. The Committee would observe that if the land was occupied for agricultural purposes it would fall within the scope of the Bill. If what his hon. Friend was aiming at was a cottage held along with the land for agricultural purposes, the occupier would get the benefit of the Bill, because the house and the land were one holding. But the hon. Gentleman suggested that if it was found that the occupier of an ordinary dwelling-house was a person engaged in agriculture, he should be relieved; in other words, the relief was not to depend on the character of the land, but on the occupation of the person holding it.

Mr. J. W. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) thought that one of the great blots on the Bill was that it only dealt with a certain class of agriculturists, and left the farm servants out altogether.

Mr. SOUTTAR said he was exceedingly sorry the Lord Advocate could not make this small concession. The Amendment was an effort to deal with the very poor people who lived in cottages. He could see a certain amount of difficulty in the argument of the Lord Advocate, but he would point out that, if the Amendment were not accepted, the farm servants in the country would be actually paying a portion of their masters' rates.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL said that in 99 cases out of 100 these houses would be exempt as being agricultural heritages. They were occupied together with the land, and the exemption was not confined, as in the English Bill, to the mere land, but included the buildings used on the land.

Sir ROBERT REID said that there were many holdings in agricultural districts which were described not as holdings but as tenements, which were occupied by those who were engaged in the lower grades of agricultural pursuits, and who would obtain no relief under this Bill. Such people, some of whom were ploughmen, lived, not upon agricultural land, but in villages or in small burghs, and they would have to pay their full share of the rates. He thought it was quite unjustifiable that they should not receive relief under this Bill. He had placed an Amendment on the Paper which limited the application of the Bill to such tenements as were occupied at a rental of less than £10 per annum by farm servants or other persons employed mainly or exclusively for agricultural or pastoral purposes. Unless an Amendment of that kind were accepted, the present Bill would operate most oppressively upon the agricultural population of Scotland. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said that the Bill ought to give relief to the class of farm labourers who lived in small villages where they would be subject to the higher rates that would have to be imposed in order to make good the deficiency that would arise from the operation of the Bill.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL said that the Bill would not increase the rates.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said that the rates must be increased in order to make good the deficiency that its provisions would involve. Agricultural land would pay a lower rate than house property.

MR. A. CROSS asked what the definition of a farm labourer was. They were men who were employed during a certain period of the year only.

*MR. McLEOD said there could be no difficulty in differentiating between agricultural and other labourers. The poor farm labourer who dwelt in a small village found the greatest difficulty in meeting his rates.

MR. CALDWELL hoped that the Government would accept the Amendment, which would involve no practical difficulty.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 61; Noes, 134.—(Division List, No. 378.)

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON moved to omit the word "woodlands," so that they might share in the relief of rates afforded by the Bill. He did not, he said, intend to press the matter to a Division, but he should like some explanation as to why woodlands should be excluded, especially, as they had been assured over and over again, that this was a Measure of rating reform. In the classified parishes the butcher and baker would be entitled to relief, but as soon as land otherwise entitled to it came under timber the relief would cease. If land had been under grass or some other crop and was then put under timber, the relief given under the Bill lapsed. That was a feature of rating reform which he thought demanded some explanation. Take the case of market gardens and nurseries. Young trees would obtain relief from the rates until they reached a more mature age; but when this latter event occurred and they were transplanted on the hillside, they would begin to bear the full burden of local taxation. That was an extraordinary proposition. ["Hear, hear!"] Why should this form of crop, which was especially suited to a large portion of the country, be excluded from this measure of relief? One reason very often given in support of the Bill was that it would incidentally benefit the labouring population by leading to the employment of more people on the land. He knew of no way in which more labour could be employed on the land than through the development of the system of afforestation. One of the great disadvantages and hindrances in the way of planting was that the burden of local rates ran up at compound interest against the planter. He planted for posterity and his successor reaped the benefit, and, therefore, if there was a case for giving relief upon land one would have thought it would have been in the case rather of woodlands than of any use to which the land was put. There had been the same fall in prices in wood that there had been in farm produce, while in the Finance Act of 1895 it was provided that the Death Duties should be taken on the same valuation as that employed for plantations under the local taxation system—namely, 25 years' purchase of the unimproved value of the soil. Yet under the present Bill the Government proposed to leave this one form of occupation untouched. This was a subject which would be watched with great interest by many foresters and others who were interested in the growth of timber, and, though he did not intend to press his Amendment to a Division, he thought he was entitled to some explanation on the matter from the Lord Advocate.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) expressed a hope that the Government would listen favourably to the Amendment. There was one very strong point in its favour that the hon. Member for Leith had not mentioned. That was that when the English Bill was first brought in woodlands were excluded in the same manner as they were in the present Bill, but in Committee the justice of taxing woodlands at a higher rate was pointed out and they were removed from the clause. The present exclusion from the benefit of this Bill would operate against woodlands in Scotland, while the exclusion did not operate against woodlands in England. Then, in addition to what the hon. Gentleman had said, he would like to add that the growth of timber was one of the most precarious crops. It was subject to complete destruction by gales of wind, and whole tracts of woodlands then became wholly unprofitable. It was a crop exceedingly desirable to encourage, and, therefore, he hoped the Amendment would be favourably considered.

MR. H. C. F. LUTTRELL (Devon, Tavistock) hoped the Government would not accept the Amendment, to which there was the most serious objection. The right hon. Baronet was altogether mistaken as the effect of what was done on the English Bill in regard to woodlands. Woodlands were excluded from the benefit of the English Bill, and what the hon. Member for Leith was proposing was exactly that which they had prevented the Government from doing on the English Bill. The Bill was to amend the law with respect to the classification of land and heritages for purposes of rating and for the relief of the occupiers of agricultural land and heritages. Who were the occupiers of woodlands? There were many large owners of woodlands, but where were the occupiers? What they were really proposing to do was to relieve large landowners in Scotland. That would be the effect of the Amendment. The hon. Member for Leith said he would be very willing to accept an Amendment which would not relieve ornamental woodlands, but how were they to draw a distinction between profitable timber and ornamental timber? The Amendment was a retrograde step, and he could not believe that the Government would accept it.

SIR J. STIRLING-MAXWELL (Glasgow, College) said there was very great reason for hoping that there would be an increase in Scotland in the industry of growing trees. Such an industry was certainly one that required to be encouraged, and, as the Amendment offered some encouragement, he hoped the Government would listen to it.

MR. RENSHAW was afraid that, unless the right hon. Gentleman saw his way to accepting this Amendment, there would be a difference created in the position of woodlands in the certified classified parishes and of those in the ordinary parishes unclassified at present.

MR. HENRY BROADHURST (Leicester) trusted the Lord Advocate would not go back upon what was done in the English Bill. He would like to point out that woods and forests did not depend for their profit solely upon the timber. They grew other things and protected other things. There was a great profit derived from these woods by reason of the harbouring they gave to game of many descriptions, and he considered it would be unjust for the Government to listen for a moment to the proposal now before the Committee.

MR. A. CROSS trusted the Amendment would not be listened to. He submitted this point to the Lord Advocate—What was a forest? There were large tracts in connection with deer forests which were wooded, and the difficulty of assessing them would be insuperable. Any attempt to relieve what might be called the industry of growing timber would result in great abuses in the assessing of these forests. Even shootings in the north were not assessed as they ought to be, and he was disposed to look upon this as a barefaced attempt on the part of the landlords to take a part of the plunder which was being allocated to the agricultural interest.

*The LORD ADVOCATE said it was clear that he would not be able to please every one in this matter. He thought that the mover of the Amendment had been misinformed as to what happened on the English Bill. As originally drafted the Bill had the word "woodlands" in the definition clause. In Committee it was struck out, and afterwards it was put in the exclusion clause, and again it was omitted. Hon. Members seemed to forget that under this Bill the sum of money was fixed, and the question whether the word "woodlands" was or was not inserted did not affect the amount. He had some sympathy with the Amendment and thought that a great deal might be said for it, because "woodlands" was one form of cultivation of the land. But no one could suppose that forests were to be included in the Bill. As a rule deer forests had no trees. No doubt there was a certain number of trees in deer forests, but the woodlands referred to by the hon. Member for the Leith Burghs were those woodlands for which the occupier's rate was charged, not on the assumed value of the woodlands, but on the assumed agricultural value the land would let for if cleared of trees and put into the market as agricultural land. The safer course in this matter would be to put off dealing with the question until report, when, if the Amendment was moved in the appropriate part of the clause, he would then be able to give a decision.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

After the usual interval, MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) took the Chair.

*MR. MCLEOD moved, in the last paragraph of the clause to leave out the word "mainly" and to insert instead thereof the word "partly." His object was to prevent sporting lands, under the device of putting a few hundred sheep on them, obtaining relief as pastoral land. This was a matter which affected not only his own constituency, but the whole of the northern counties. He did not think that it would be admitted that a tenant who occupied a deer forest ought to get any relief.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE did not complain of the Amendment or the spirit in which it was moved, but he thought the words in the Bill were better than the suggested Amendment of the hon. Member. Of course, shooting land as such, would never get any relief, but the Amendment might strike at persons whom the hon. Member did not desire to strike at.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CALDWELL moved, after the word "purposes" to insert the words—

"or any shootings, fishings, deer forests, or sporting rights, whether the same be let or unlet."

*THE LORD ADVOCATE thought the words were unnecessary as no sane Sheriff would suppose that a shooting or fishing was an agricultural tenancy.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CROMBIE moved after the words "it shall be," to insert the words—

"decided by the parish council with right to appeal to the sheriff, by whom it shall be."

His object, he said, was simply to prevent litigation.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said this was a judicial question, which would better be decided by the Sheriff than by a popularly elected body like the Parish Council, which had absolutely no experience in judicial matters.

MR. CALDWELL said the Parish Council and County Council must exercise their judgment first as to what might fall under this clause.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CALDWELL moved, after the word "Sheriff" to insert the word "principal."

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he could not accept this Amendment, but he should be happy to accept the Amendment of the hon. Member dealing with an appeal from a Sheriff substitute to the Sheriff. The Sheriff substitute was a local resident Judge, and was easier of access than the Sheriff-principal, who in the case of the northern counties might not be accessible for some time.

MR. CALDWELL agreed that in some cases this was so. He had had in his mind the case of the county of Lanark.

MR. ALEXANDER URE (Linlithgow) asked whether, if there was to be an appeal from the Sheriff substitute, it would be desirable in some part of the Bill to make provision for some such procedure to be followed as that prescribed in the Public Health Act, by way of petition presented at the instance of the occupier of lands. In some of the Sheriffs' Courts of Scotland the Sheriffs' clerks were not familiar with the procedure to be followed.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he would be very glad to consider that matter He would not promise that he would do so, because certainly expedition was required in this matter.

MR. CALDWELL asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CALDWELL moved at the end of the clause, after the word "final," to insert the words, "except that where the decision is given by a Sheriff-substitute it shall be subject to appeal to the Sheriff."

Amendment agreed to.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE moved at the end of the clause, afted the words last inserted, to add the words, "The expression, 'Parish Council" includes School Board where a school rate is levied directly by a School Board."

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. STUART-WORTLEY) ruled out of Order the following Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Dundee (Mr. E. Robertson):—At the end of the clause to add—

"Provided also, that when lands or heritages used for agricultural or pastoral purposes only have a value in excess of the value attributable to such use, they shall be entered on the valuation roll as of an annuel value, calculated at the rate of three per centum of their estimated selling value, and their annual value, so ascertained, shall be held to be their annual value for the purposes of this Act, notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained."

MR. WHITE moved at the end of the clause, after the words last inserted, to add—

"The annual value for the purpose of the occupiers' rate or share of rate shall not be reduced as above unless the occupier has continuously occupied the holding for three years."

*THE LORD ADVOCATE asked whether the Amendment did not come under a ruling that had been given by Mr. Lowther on a similar subject. They had already settled that what was intended was to happen during the continuance of the Act, and the Amendment proposed that it should not affect a specified class of occupiers.

MR. WHITE said the Amendment was retrospective. The tenant might have been in possession for three years or more, and run on six or seven years. Another might be in a holding one day, and his tenancy expire in three years.

*MR. J. B. BALFOUR submitted that there was a material difference between the Amendment and that on which Mr. Lowther gave his ruling.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. STUART-WORTLEY) said he must adhere to his decision.

MR. E. ROBERTSON said they could hardly expect this momentous clause, which was regarded as the head and front of the Bill, to pass without further discussion. The Lord Advocate had laid less emphasis upon the relief of agricultural distress than upon the other grounds he had urged in favour of the Bill. He had defended the Bill on the ground that there was inequality and injustice in the present law as between agricultural and other land; that there was impartiality in the existing law between realty and personalty; and only in the last resource, when the other arguments failed to justify the position he was taking up, did he fall back on the old cry of agricultural distress. But, in the view of the country, agricultural distress was, after all, the real basis of the Bill. The hon. Member for Dumbartonshire said that agriculture alone of all industries in Scotland had failed to prosper in recent years. Yet when he was last in the hon. Member's constituency he heard that all the industries of Scotland were depressed, and that the fault lay with the late Government. Not a single Amendment moved from the Opposition side of the House with a view to apportioning the relief of agricultural distress had been entertained. In connection with the question he invited the attention of the Committee to the change in connection with agricultural distress which had been imported into the Bill by the Amendments of the Lord Advocate. The Amendment relating to agricultural distress classified agricultural relief. There were three categories of agricultural relief created by the Bill. First of all, in parishes not now classified according to law, the relief of the agricultural occupier would be five-eighths of his rates; secondly, in those classified parishes which still remained classified, the agricultural occupier would get no relief, and the Bill would not make a particle of difference to him; thirdly, in the classified parishes. which were now to be disclassified, the relief would vary according to the circumstances of the original classification. There might be very little difference between the classification now dispossessed of the five-eighths set up by the Bill, or there might be a great one. He submitted that the result of the Lord Advocate's Amendment, now imported into the Bill, was that, with respect to the rates affected thereby, there were various degrees of relief given to agricultural occupiers—five-eighths in one case, nothing in a second, and in a third varying from next to nothing to possibly a great deal. The law as it now stood was hard enough to understand, but the law as it would be when this Bill passed he would not attempt to define. There were under the existing law certain optional classifications under two Acts of Parliament. Of these some were abolished, some were retained—all this apparently in the name of uniformity. There was a statutory classification apart from this altogether, and that was retained; so that they had one optional classification abolished, one retained, and the statutory qualification retained. And all this was to bring about, for a space of five years, a state of uniformity, and at the end of five years this very partial and qualified uniformity was to be set aside and the original chaos was to be restored. From the point of view of its technical merits this clause of the Bill they might part from without much regret, if without very much hope for its future working. But the technical part of the question after all was the secondary part, and on the substantial merits of the clause he had only one word to say. Take it with all its faults and merits, what did it come to? It came to this, that the root of this legislation was the English Bill—["hear, hear!"]—a Bill brought in, whether with true or false pretences it would be out of Order to say, but a Bill brought in avowedly with the object of relieving agricultural distress. The Government gave Scotland 11-80ths of the money. They simply gave them, in virtue of a constitutional principle, their equivalent share in the amount of money required to meet agricultural distress in Scotland. It was ear-marked in the very beginning as Scotch money. It belonged to all of them. The share which belonged to his own constituency in this money was something like £8,000 a year. What were they going to get back? They were going to get back £472 a year. Could the Unionist Members for Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Scotch burghs go back to their constituents and tell them that, whereas their share in this Scotch equivalent grant amounted to thousands a year, they must be content with sums of £200, £300, or £400 a year? He had not seen many Scotch Unionist Members on the other side present during these Debates. He understood the proportion of Scotch opinion represented in the Lobbies against the clause they were now dealing with had been two to one against it. The fact was Scotch opinion had been dead against the Bill from the beginning, because they believed that it was an unfair distribution to one class of the community of money which belonged to the whole community. This was just as much, or nearly as much, a robbery of Scotland as if they had never received a penny of the money at all.

*MR. WYLIE said the accuracy of his figures had been so repeatedly attacked that he claimed a right to say a word in reply. The position he took up was that agriculture had been in an entirely exceptional condition as compared with the other leading industries, and he had not heard a single word except vague generalities in contravention of that contention. ["Hear, hear!"] There had been a temporary depression in the woollen industry, but it had only been temporary. That was shown by the figures. In 1881 the number of people employed in the industry was 35,646, and in 1891, 40,034, and he was quite prepared, if necessary, to carry forward the figures in connection with the consumption of wool in reference to this special industry. The colleague of the hon. Member for Dundee had stated that the textile industries of Scotland were in a depressed condition, and he quite admitted that the jute industry was in a depressed condition. But the leading textile industries in Scotland had been upon the whole flourishing, as he could also prove. The hon. Member for Caithness had stated that the mining industry was depressed. He admitted that there had been a temporary depression in the industry, but the figures would prove it was only temporary. In 1851 the number of miners in Scotland was 52,000; in 1871, 77,000; in 1891, 84,000, and in 1894 there were 88,620 in coal alone. The number of persons employed in connection with an industry was one of the best tests they could have of its progress and prosperity, and he should like to know any leading industry in Scotland in which the number of people employed in it had not been steadily increasing, whereas in agriculture the numbers had been as steadily decreasing. The number of agricultural labourers in 1871 was 258,000; in 1881, 234,000; and in 1891, 220,000.

MR. McLEOD asked whether the hon. Member had taken into account the extra number engaged in working agricultural machinery.

*MR. WYLIE said he had—everyone connected with agriculture, according to the Census Returns. Put concisely, the number of people engaged in non-productive occupations increased by 6½ per cent.; industrial occupations, 10¾ per cent.; domestic, 15 per cent.; professional, 16 per cent., and commercial, 37 per cent., during the last decade, while the agricultural labourers had fallen off by 6½ per cent. If the hon. member for Dundee would indicate any leading industry in Scotland in which the depression had been anything like that he would be glad to hear him. [*An* HON. MEMBER: "Sugar!"] Sugar was not a leading industry, and it was in an entirely exceptional condition. It had been crushed out by the operation of the foreign bounty system.

MR. E. ROBERTSON said he did not challenge the hon. Member's statement. He simply pointed out the contrast between the statement he made and the statement he heard made in the election which ended in his return.

*MR. WYLIE said the statements he had made in that Committee he was quite prepared to stand to, and he did not think that anything the hon. Member for Dundee had said had invalidated the position he had taken up.

*MR. COMPTON RICKETT (Scarborough) said that it was a rash thing for an Englishman to rush into a Debate where Southrons usually feared to tread. It also required some courage to come between a Scotsman and the traditional "saxpence;" but one of his hon. Friends, a Scotch Member, after a struggle it was true, had expressed his willingness to surrender the grant of money for the sake of preserving the principle they defended. He commended the picture of a Member from Scotland refusing money as a subject to the future artist who should add to the frescoes of the Houses of Parliament. The question of the bounty, so to speak, to be allowed to Scotland was resisted strongly on that side of the House. They had an economic principle at stake in the English Bill and in the Scotch Bill. Free Trade they knew, and Protection they knew, but, as to the spirit in possession of the times, they might say to it, "Who are ye?" They would find that if they introduced this plan of making to one set of interests or to one form of industry a special concession, they had opened the floodgates to other concessions. Once take the first step, and then it was only a question of degree. They would have others clamouring for like grants, and every industry successively depressed would claim some allowance from the public purse. At last they would have to draw the line and refuse all concessions, or to go forward to the nationalisation of industries. If agriculture might claim relief, the House would also have to consider coal mining and trades which were depressed in turn. He supported the rejection of the clause.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the speech of the hon. Member for Dundee seemed to him to be made up, first of all, of an attempt to suggest extraordinary complications where none existed; and, secondly, to offer some general considerations for outside consumption. [*Laughter.*] The question was a simple one. It was a fallacy to suppose that there were three kinds of relief granted; there was only one kind of relief—the right, under the Bill, of the agriculturist to be rated at three-eighths of his valuation, and that was effected either where there was no classification or where there was a certain kind of classification. He had defended the English Bill on the same grounds as he had defended this Bill. [MR. ROBERTSON: "The origin of the Bill is in the Queen's Speech."] When the hon. Gentleman spoke about the money of his constituents being taken, he thought that he begged the whole question. Though an equivalent grant in amount was given, the money was given by Parliament for the same objects as under the English Bill, and to say that the money belonged in definite proportions to Dundee and other constituencies was to mistake the purpose for which the money was given. The money was given to redress in England and Scotland an injustice to agriculture, and the amount of that money was conditioned by the rules of the equivalent grant.

SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN said it was all very well for the right hon. Gentleman to talk about the intention of Parliament in endowing Scottish agriculture in the same way as English agriculture. The intention of Parliament was not decided until it had pronounced on the arguments adduced, and their arguments were for the purpose of endeavouring, if they could, to make Parliament decide against a great injustice. From whom did this money come? The constituencies knew well that it was they who paid the money. Suppose that this was a Bill for paying five-eighths of the rates of ratepayers in the boroughs, and that the county ratepayers received no relief. Was it likely that the County Councils would not raise a protest? Of course they would; they would not be deceived by the notion that this was a certain sum of money which Parliament desired to give, in order to pay the rates of the borough occupiers. Here the borough ratepayers paid the money and they got nothing. For example on the gross valuation of Glasgow that town paid £25,000 a year; under this Bill it would get, if the temporary payment of the Land Tax was relaxed, £2,000; Edinburgh paying £15,000, would get £2,000; Greenock paying £3,000 would get £72; Aberdeen paying £5,000 would get £500. The agricultural industry which was to be treated with this special favour had not in all parts of Scotland suffered; in some parts of the country it was extremely prosperous. In order that such a gross injustice as was proposed should not be inflicted on the burgh population of Scotland, and upon every man who lived in a house to which agricultural land was not attached, some theory had to be discovered, and that theory was that this was a rating reform. The Bill was an afterthought; it was not mentioned in the Queen's Speech. Scotland never asked for it, and a great majority of the hon. Members who had supported it in the Lobby knew very little about what they were voting for. As to Scotch Members, at this moment—he wished it were otherwise—right hon. Gentlemen opposite were supported by, he supposed, the largest minority that had been returned from Scotland to support a Conservative Government in his time, at any rate, and perhaps for long before. The Government had five Scotch supporters to every six Scotch opponents. That was the opinion of Scotland on general politics at the last General Election. But what was the opinion of Scotland in respect to this particular Bill. There had been two crucial divisions on this clause. The hon. Member for Kincardine moved an Amendment which amounted to a protest against enabling future rates to be paid by the rural population on three-eighths of their rental, and for that Amendment there voted 32 Scotch Members to 16 Scotch Members against it. ["How many were paired?"] He did not know anything about that. On the Second Reading, when they examined the pairs, the Opposition came out very much better. On the Amendment limiting the operation of the clause to two years instead of five the Opposition had 30 Scotch Members with them, and the Government 15. ["There were pairs."] Yes, but they had only to do with those people who voted, and he thought he was quite justified in saying that the people of Scotland were against the Bill in the proportion of two to one.

MR. RENSHAW was surprised the right hon. Gentleman should accuse those who supported the Government of ignorance. ["English Members!"] The right hon. Gentleman alluded distinctly to Scotch Members. ("No, no!" *and* "Yes, yes!")

SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN said he referred to those who came in to vote only.

MR. RENSHAW was glad the right hon. Gentleman had corrected the impression which he left on his mind. But he would like, when a charge of this kind was made, even against English Members, to point to the extraordinary ignorance shown by the right hon.

Gentleman the Member for Dundee, in the remarks he made in moving the rejection of the clause. Alluding to the first and second Sub-sections of the Clause, the hon. Gentleman said,

> "why is it that in the second Sub-section you deal with deductions, and in the first Sub-section you don't."

He did not think it was an oversight on the part of the hon. Gentleman because last night questions dealing with the same question were put direct to the Lord Advocate.

MR. ROBERTSON said he asked the question last night, and he did not ask it without consultation with those on his side of the House who knew all about the subject.

MR. RENSHAW was certain the hon. Gentleman would not have put the question at all if he had taken the trouble to make himself acquainted with the facts. The right hon. Member had stated that there were parts of Scotland where, under this Bill, farmers would get nothing. He challenged that statement There was no part of Scotland in which agriculture would not be benefited under this Bill. Would the farmer derive no benefit by having to pay in future three-eighths of his valuation? The right hon. Gentleman had made some wild statements. One of them was as to the price of wool. He said the lowest price of wool was 7d., and that now British wool was fetching 9d. to 11d. per lb. That was a gross misrepresentation.

SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN said the figures 9d. to 11d. were taken from the *Economist* of last week. [*Cries of* "Withdraw."]

MR. RENSHAW said he was a grower of wool, and he undertook to say that the price of black-faced wool at the outside was 5½d. [" Hear, hear."]

MR. J. M. WHITE (Forfar) thought that the proposal which he had on the Paper, but which he understood was out of order in regard to Clause 4 would meet the point. At present the Bill was full of injustices, for those who suffered least would get the most. They had classified districts which got no relief and unclassified districts to which considerable relief was given. He considered this extremely unjust. He had property in classified and unclassified districts. The greatest depression was in the classified parishes but on that he got n relief.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY appealed to the Committee t come to a decision on the clause. O course he did not wish to interfere in an way with full discussion; he merel wished in the interest of the progress o business to go on to the other clauses.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMA reminded the right hon. Gentlema that Clause 1 was the most importan clause of the Bill [The FIRST LORD o the TREASURY: "Hear, hear!"], an it was not unreasonable that Member should express their views upon it [*Laughter.*] They were discussin matters of the greatest importance an they were received with nothing bu jeers and laughter—[*cries of* "Oh, oh!" —from Gentlemen opposite who kne nothing about it, had no interest in it and whose constituents had no interes in it. [*Cheers.*] Under such circumstances discussion in that House becam a farce. A different spirit had bee shown by the Government. This wa so important a part of the Bill that i ought not to be hurried through as lon as Scotch Members had anything to say

DR. CLARK said that nine-tenths o all the money would be determined b this clause. As to whether the benefi of this Bill would go to the landlords At the present time, a large portion o the North of Scotland was in the hand of the owners and a few big pluralis farmers. Therefore, in those district the landlords would get the full benefi to themselves. Then on those land which were let from year to year, th rent depended on the rates, and if th rates were reduced the rent would b increased. But the most importan class of tenants in Scotland were th leaseholders, and when the existin leases fell in the present rents would b increased to the extent of the relief. Th great bulk of the rate came under Sub-section 2 and not Sub-section 1 of th clause. The consolidated rate wa small compared with the School Boar and Parochial rates. In parishes wher classification existed the relief would g to the non-agricultural occupiers. Th Lord Advocate's Amendment propose a system of classification by registe by the Secretary for Scotland. The only result of that would be that the relief given to agriculturists hitherto by their fellow non-agricultural ratepayers would now be given by the State. But he had no objection to the Bill passing, because the result would be that certain Gentlemen on the Ministerial side of the House who represented western divisions of Scotland would lose their seats at the next election.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS said that he had the honour to represent one of the Divisions of Glasgow, and he was perfectly satisfied that the people of Glasgow wanted nothing but fairness and justice All the speeches made by hon. Gentlemen opposite on the Second Reading of this Bill were so many attempts to throw dust in the eyes of the people. This was a question of equitable and reasonable dealing with the matter of rating, and he very much mistook his fellow citizens of Glasgow if they attempted to save themselves from the just and reasonable taxes that would fall to their share even if the proposals of the Bill compelled them to pay a few pence or even pounds more in order that justice might be done. He took his stand on the plea of justice, and he was prepared to go to his constituents on that plea. The agricultural industry was suffering to such an extent at the present time that it ought not to be called upon to pay what he maintained was an unjust and unfair share of the rating burdens of the country.

MR. COLVILLE contended that instead of benefiting under this Bill the citizens of Glasgow would be grossly injured by it. The first clause was wholly unjust to those who paid rates in boroughs and populous places. Instead of being benefited they were to be plundered by this attempt to relieve agricultural tenants at the expense of others, and especially of those in boroughs. He held that the Second Clause was grossly unjust, especially as it not merely differentiated between the agricultural and other ratepayers with respect to the taxes that had already been laid on, but would give them power to increase the rates with a light heart when they remembered they had only to pay three-eighths as against the whole taxation that would be borne by the other classes of ratepayers. He strongly supported the Amendment to omit this clause.

MR. CALDWELL remarked that this clause was supported by the Lord Advocate upon one particular ground. The right hon. Gentleman threw overboard altogether the plea of agricultural distress and based his argument on the ground that this clause was to bring about a just principle of rating between agricultural land and other land. The right hon. Gentleman's statement on this subject was contained, very shortly, in his Second Reading speech. He said:—

> "Hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite had failed to give the Government credit for the true principle which underlaid the English Bill and also this Bill. In the case of the English Bill they had to deal with the gross inequality between the burdens which for local purposes were borne by real as against personal property. The fact was that, roughly speaking, the personal property of this kingdom was worth about five times as much as the real property, and yet real property bore the whole brunt of local taxation."

Was there ever such a monstrous absurdity as for the Lord Advocate to say that in Scotland real property bore the whole brunt of local taxation? Yet upon this footing the whole Bill rested. This clause dealt entirely with occupiers' rates. Who paid occupiers' rates? Was it real property paid them? Ask the artisan in the town who paid his rates? He would say he paid them out of his own industry, out of his wages, and no part of the payment fell upon real property. Again, take the occupier in the country—the farmer, and ask him who paid his rates. Were they paid by real property? Nothing of the kind, they were paid from the farmer's industry. The fallacy of the Lord Advocate's argument was the confounding of two cases, the man who paid the amount, and the amount which was paid upon his rental. The occupier paid out of his industry, but the rate was regulated by the amount paid to the landed proprietor. It was not the landed property, it was the tenant who paid the rates, the landed property simply specified the amount that was to be paid. Assuming the Lord Advocate's contention to be sound——[*Interruption*]. He was, he thought, entitled to be heard on a matter in which all constituencies were interested. If the Lord Advocate's contention was sound, and if real property really paid the taxation, then it would naturally follow that relief from taxation should go to those who paid the rates. But so far as occupiers' rates were concerned, the occupier paid out of personalty absolutely. Sub-section 1 dealt with the occupiers' consolidated rates, and also with the Public Health (Scotland) rate. For the consolidated rate he took as a typical instance Stirlingshire. There the occupiers total consolidated rate was 4¼d., and of this the maintenance of roads took 3¼d. The Government proposed under the Bill to classify these consolidated rates which were not classified at the present time. In 1878 a Unionist Government introduced the Roads and Bridges Act. Prior to that the maintenance of roads and bridges was levied by tolls. What was the position of tenant-farmers in regard to roads and bridges in 1878?

[The hon. Member, who had spoken amid continuous interruption, made a lengthened pause.]

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: I must request the hon. Member to continue his speech.

Mr. CALDWELL: I am perfectly ready to continue, but I think I am fairly entitled to ask for reasonable silence.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS: The hon. Gentleman must remember that he has addressed the Committee very frequently on the Bill, and therefore he must not be surprised if the Committee receives him with some impatience. If the hon. Gentleman will come down to more recent times and apply himself more closely to a discussion of the first clause he will probably obtain a hearing.

Mr. CALDWELL: It is perfectly true I have addressed the Committee frequently. But this is a Bill that deeply affects Scotch constituencies. I never said a word on the English Bill, and if I have spoken frequently now, it is a subject on which I have most perfect knowledge. The hon. Member then resumed his speech. The question, he said, was whether or not the Consolidated Rate ought to be classified. Prior to the passing of the Roads and Bridges Act of 1878 tolls were levied, and they fell most heavily on agricultural tenants. But by the Act of 1878 the rate was placed on all county householders, with the result that a farmer o £300 rental, who paid £40 in toll dues not only paid £4 in road rate. Surel that was not a case for classification. A farmer whose tolls had bee compounded by a rate which was no more than one tenth of what he formerl paid had no right to ask for greate relief now. Indeed, the householders o every county were complaining that the were now assessed at more than thei proper share because they were assesse at the same rate as the farmer. Th result of the Bill would be that the agricultural tenant who used the road would pay 3d., while the householde who did not would pay 8d. in the pound

Sir J. FERGUSSON rose in hi place, and claimed to move, "That the question be now put." [*Cheers.*]

The CHAIRMAN of WAYS an MEANS: I understood from the hon Member for Mid Lanark that he intende only to detain the House for five minutes He has now been speaking for a quarte of an hour, but I suppose the hon Gentleman is bringing his remarks to a close. [*Laughter.*]

Mr. CALDWELL: Yes, Sir, I am [*Laughter and cheers.*] The Committee was giving money to be allocated to Scotland, and all the Scotch Members asked was that, while English Members had had the benefit of having their money allocated according to their wishes they should allow Scotch Members to apply their own money as they wished [*Ironical Ministerial cheers.*]

*Mr. AUGUSTINE BIRRELL (Fife W.), said he felt sure the Committee would not wish to part company with a clause that had afforded them all so much intellectual pleasure in a spirit of ill-humour and discontent, and, as he had not yet had an opportunity of addressing the Committee, he craved leave to say a few words. [*Cheers.*] The hon. Member for Camlachie had accused his colleague of being even more involved and less intelligent than usual, but he could not say that any Scotch Member who had taken part in the discussion was entitled to any great merit for his extreme lucidity. [*Laughter.*] He very much doubted whether any of those English Members who had taken so active a part in this Debate, though not in the way of articulate expression, had the slightest notion what the prevailing system of local taxation in Scotland was, or could rise in their places and say what was meant by classification. [*Cheers and laughter.*] Up to the introduction of this Bill the Scottish method of local taxation had always been held up to admiration, respect and wonder. It was always conceived to be the wisest and best mode of raising money for local purposes; and they always used to hear that nothing could be conceived better than a system of local rating which divided the rate equally between the owner and the occupier and allowed for classification. In Scotland they had never heard of complaint or any reason why this system should be attacked or interfered with. The Committee would have done well to consider whether the system of classification which had worked so well in Scotland should not be made compulsory. Under that system every class of property had to pay that share of the rates which it was best able to bear. Of course there was a divergence of opinion among hon. Members upon the question, because, whilst some were anxious that justice should be done, others were violently opposed to injustice. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] For his own part, he did not anticipate either very much good or very much harm from the Bill, and, indeed, he scarcely thought that it was worth the while of the Government to pass this Measure. ["Hear, hear!" *and laughter.*] He did not wish to inflict figures upon the Committee, but he had had figures prepared which showed that the Bill as amended would scarcely affect the agricultural class in classified parishes in Scotland at all, and that the only people who would (in those cases) benefit by it would be the owners of shops and houses. The benefit that the agricultural class would derive from it would be of a very minute character. They had in Scotland a system of rating which was far better than that in force in England. He regretted that the Government should have thought it right to introduce into Scotland this passion for doles. Of course, if doles were going about, Scotch Members thought it to be their duty to secure some of them for their constituents. That was, of course, merely one of the characteristics of human nature, but he was afraid that the desire for doles would grow, and would have a very demoralising effect upon the people. It was said that this Bill had been brought in with the object of assimilating the law of Scotland in reference to this question with that of England, but it must not be forgotten that the English system of rating was in urgent need of reform. ["Hear, hear!"] He denied that any such grievance existed in Scotland as called for this class of legislation, and he believed the Scotch system of rating might be placed on a right footing in something like six weeks, without hanging the whole question up for five years. He regretted having to speak at that late hour, but he should take part in the Division with very great pleasure.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 172; Noes, 74.—(Division List, No. 379.)

Clause 2,—

### ASCERTAINMENT OF DEFICIENCY ARISING FROM REDUCTION OF OCCUPIERS' RATES ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND HERITAGES.

The deficiency arising in the produce of rates under the provisions of this Act shall be ascertained as follows:—

(1.) The Secretary for Scotland shall ascertain and certify the amount which is to be taken as having been raised during the local financial year ending the *fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six*, by each rating authority by each rate to which this Act applies, and the portion of such amount which represents the occupiers' share of such rate in each rateable area.

(2.) The Secretary for Scotland shall ascertain and certify the valuation of each rateable area to which this Act applies for the said year, and the portion of such valuation which represents the valuation of agricultural lands and heritages.

(3.) That part of the occupiers' share of each rate which represents the proportion borne by the valuation of agricultural lands and heritages in the rateable area to the whole valuation of the rateable area shall to the extent of five-eighths thereof, ascertained and certified by the Secretary for Scotland, be taken as the deficiency arising in the produce of such rate from the provisions of this Act

(4.) The Secretary for Scotland may amend, or for the purpose of meeting any alteration in an area or authority to which a certificate relates may vary a certificate under this Act, and any such amendment or variation shall have effect from the date of the original certificate, or any later date fixed by the said Secretary, but save as in this section provided, a certificate shall be final and binding on all persons.

MR. E. ROBERTSON said he desired to raise a point of very grave importance, which involved the fate of the clause. What Clause 2 directed the Secretary for Scotland to do was—shorn of all verbiage—to ascertain the agricultural portion of the occupiers' share of the rate; to take five-eighths of that; that five-eighths so taken was to be called "the certified deficiency," and the aggregate of that entirely artificial sum was to be the amount to be paid to the local taxation account. Having ascertained that figure, the Secretary for Scotland was to distribute it amongst the parish councils and the district councils in the portions of the certified deficiencies without any reference to the provisions of the Bill. That necessarily involved the application of the money to purposes other than the relief of agricultural rates. He submitted that the scheme involved the application of money to purposes not mentioned in the reference on which the Bill was founded, and that it was not within the scope of the Bill and was, therefore, out of order.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS said the hon. Member had raised the same point a few hours ago, on which he gave a ruling to the best of his ability. It was true that incidentally certain occupiers of land and heritages, non-agricultural, would be relieved, but eventually the relief would go to holders of agricultural land and heritages. The Bill, with the Amendment now inserted, simply made certain that the land would be valued at the lower rate in future. If he was correct in that view there was nothing out of order in it. In these matters they were not guided solely by the title of the Bill, but had to consider the general scope and intent of the Measure. Strictly there was no appeal from his decision, but if the hon. Member was not satisfied with it there would be another opportunity for him to raise the point of order.

MR. URE moved to omit "The deficiency arising in the produce of rates under the provisions of this Act shall be ascertained as follows." The object of the Amendment was, he said, to remove the ambiguity and difficulty which gave rise to discussion earlier in the evening.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. URE moved, in Sub-section (3), to omit the words, "taken as the deficiency arising in the produce of such rate from the provisions of this Act," and to insert instead thereof the following words:—

"the amount regulating the distribution of the balance of the money hereinafter mentioned in respect of that rate."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. T. SHAW moved, in Sub-section (4), after the words "the Secretary for Scotland may," to insert the words "in case of error."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3,—

PAYMENT TO LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND) ACCOUNT.

(1.) During the continuance of this Act, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in such manner, by such payments, and under such regulations as the Treasury may direct, shall pay to the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account, out of the proceeds of the estate duty derived in Scotland from personal property, such sums as may be ascertained by the Treasury to be equal to eleven-eightieth parts of the sums payable under the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, to the Local Taxation Account therein mentioned.

(2.) The first payment under this section shall be made during the six months ending on the thirty-first day of March next after the passing of this Act, so as to make up a half-yearly payment to meet the payments out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account which may be made during the six ensuing months.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON moved in Sub-section (1) to leave out the words "in such manner by such payments, and."

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said these were the usual words and they could certainly do no harm.

Amendment negatived.

MR. E. ROBERTSON, on the provision specifying that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue should pay to the local taxation (Scotland) account, "out of proceeds of the Estate Duty derived in Scotland from personal property," such sums as equalled eleven-eightieths of the sums payable under the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, moved an Amendment to omit the words referring to the Estate Duty. For what possible reason did they assign the proceeds of the Estate Duty as the fund out of which these payments were to be made? This matter was discussed on the Estate Rating Bill, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer appeared to have rather scored a victory on that occasion over the Leader of the Opposition by referring him to certain words of the same sort which that right hon. Gentleman had himself used in an earlier Act. All those Bills had their roots in the remarkable speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in introducing his Budget. The right hon. Gentleman said in that speech that he made the relief of agriculture a first charge, not upon the Estate Duty, but upon the realised surplus. The retention of the words in reference to the Estate Duty was, therefore, a Parliamentary fiction. Indeed, he might use a stronger phrase, for it was a fiction with a purpose, the purpose being to make the public believe that the money in aid of agricultural land in Scotland came out of a particular fund instead of coming out of the Imperial Revenue. As a matter affecting the honour and honesty of Parliament he moved the omission of the words. [*Ministerial laughter.*]

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said the money was not provided by Estimates, nor out of the Consolidated Fund, but by the interception of taxes, and it was therefore necessary that the taxes intercepted should be named in the Bill.

MR. HALDANE supported the Amendment. To keep the words in the Bill was merely to maintain a misleading fiction which the Committee would do well to eliminate.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) said that the Lord Advocate used the phrase "the tax was intercepted." What was the meaning of the word intercepted? Were the taxes not paid into the Treasury; and if they were paid in and then paid out, how were they intercepted?

MR. COLVILLE supported the Amendment.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 140; Noes, 55.—(Division List, No. 380.)

MR. HEDDERWICK moved to leave out the words "equal to eleven-eightieth parts of the sums payable," and to insert the words "equal in the aggregate to the whole of the annual value," etc. The principle of eleven-eightieths for Scotland ought not to be accepted without a protest. The proportion was derived from the Probate Duty, and had nothing to do with the rateable value of the agricultural land. Moreover, recent calculation had shown that the proportion was not fair. The equivalent Scotch grant in relief of agricultural rates was to the extent of five-sixteenths of the rates; but in England it was to the extent of one-half. That was unjust. The true basis on which the relief ought to be calculated was the rateable value of the land which was being dealt with. The effect of the Amendment, if carried, would, he calculated, raise Scotland's total grant from £214,000 to £308,000.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the Government could not possibly accept the Amendment, which was unworkable on the face of it. He had a glimmer of what the hon. Member intended to do; but it was certain that the Amendment did not do it. Certainly the proportion of eleven-eightieths had nothing to do with agricultural rating; but it was Scotland's proportion of grants from the Imperial funds.

MR. HEDDERWICK said he had taken the words objected to by the Lord Advocate from the 1st and 2nd Subsections of the 1st Clause.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: The hon. Member is confusing valuation and rating.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he was not at all surprised that his hon. Friend should have moved this Amendment, whether it was open to the technical objections the Lord Advocate had taken to it or not. Those Members who had been in the House for some weary years had become accustomed to hear the proportion of eleven-eightieths talked about so long that they had come to regard it as the proper and natural proportion for Scotland, but coming fresh from the outside, with none of these predispositions, his hon. Friend was not struck with the fairness of it.

The truth was, the whole of these proceedings arose from the ludicrous practice observed for some half-a-dozen years past of making the one country follow the other in respect of these doles. What occurred was this. Some necessity arose or was supposed to have arisen in England, and it was considered that England must have a certain sum for a certain purpose, and then it was considered necessary that Scotland should have a similar sum, although the purpose might not exist in Scotland at all, although the people of Scotland might not want the money for any such purpose, and it was sometimes devoted to a similar purpose in Scotland, sometimes to another. For convenience, this proportion of eleven-eightieths had been designed by some ingenious financial authority. In this case, what had happened was this. Money was to be given to England in relief of agriculture, and therefore it was assumed that for a like purpose, a similar sum must be given to Scotland, and one would naturally think that the same degree of relief would be given, and this his hon. Friend, in the innocence of his heart, supposed. Not at all, it was to be given for the same purpose, but not to the same extent, because of this old factor of eleven-eightieths. He could not imagine there could be anything to throw a more glaring light on the ridiculous failure of the whole of this proceeding. If there was the necessity for the same relief in Scotland as in England, why should not Scotland get the same degree of relief? No; Scotland was to get eleven-eightieths as her proportion. Now, this was such a huge matter that one did not see clearly what line to take about it. He possessed some of the qualities of his countrymen, and one thing he discerned was this, that by taking the rule his hon. Friend recommended, they would obtain more, but on another occasion, for they had not done with these doles, there would be more when the Government wanted to acquire popularity in other directions——

DR. CLARK said the Education Bill of this year was a case in point.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the Education Bill was gone. *De mortuis nihil nisi bonum.* Let it be dismissed with a blessing. But on another occasion this might tell against instead of for Scotland, and he thought they had better stand by the eleven-eightieths though it told against Scotland in this case. Without knowing more than he now knew, he was not quite sure whether he could support his hon. Friend's proposal.

DR. CLARK said that both Scotland and Ireland had now become alive to the unjustness of the proportions that had been fixed, and he thought they would be able to prevent the robbery going any further. This kind of finance first made its appearance with the passing of the Local Government Act. The Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to finance the new county authorities by giving them one-half the Probate Duty, and one-half the Licence Duty, and the proportion of the Probate Duty contributed by each country was taken as the basis of distribution. The first equivalent grant given to Scotland was as compensation for the money granted from the Imperial Exchequer to pay school fees in England, and then it was proposed to give Scotland eleven-eightieths because it was her proportion of the Probate Duty. Scotland and Ireland paid a much larger proportion of Customs and Excise Duties, and the result was that in the first year Scotland lost £15,000 and Ireland £70,000; while the total sums of which each country had been defrauded in consequence of the adoption of eleven-eightieths and nine-eightieths had been, Scotland £40,000 and Ireland £130,000. It was now proposed still further to stereotype this proportion of eleven-eightieths in this new grant. There were, fortunately, returns giving the figures for England, Scotland, and Ireland, so that they knew exactly how much was collected in each country. In 1894, £65,160,000 was collected in Customs and Excise in England, and £11,414,000 in Scotland. The year before the figures were £56,306,000 for England, and £10,022,000 for Scotland. These figures showed that Scotland was paying not eleven-eightieths, but in some years thirteen-eightieths and twelve-eightieths on the average. The Treasury said:—

> "Yes, but although that money was collected in Scotland, a portion of it was for whiskey some of which was drunk in England."

He was very much amused at the Returns obtained from the Treasury. They were Returns for four or five years, and every Return published by the Treasury showed their utter incompetence. Each Return started with an apology for some error in the previous one. A Committee had been appointed to inquire into the financial arrangements that existed as between England and Ireland, but no such Committee had been appointed to inquire into the financial arrangements that existed as between England and Scotland. The consequence was that Scotland was continued to be robbed of a large share of revenue.

MR. CALDWELL said that the object of the Amendment was to insure that Scotland should be placed upon a fair footing with England as regarded taxation. There was no comparison between the amount of agriculture in Ireland and in Scotland, and yet Ireland, which had a larger agricultural area and presumably more distress, had only nine-eightieths, whereas Scotland had eleven-eightieths. He had always condemned the breaking up of the United Kingdom into nationalities, and the first step towards the division of the Imperial purse was taken by the Unionist Government. This Amendment proposed to treat Scotland as an integral part of the United Kingdom, and to give them the same relief as was given to England. The Scotch people were never consulted as to what the proportion should be, and he thought the Government should tell them whether they were prepared to appoint a Committee to ascertain how far the proportion of eleven-eightieths was equitable.

MR. HEDDERWICK asked leave to withdraw his Amendment in favour of that of the hon. Member for Caithness.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

DR. CLARK moved to omit the words "eleven-eightieths," and to insert instead thereof the words "twelve-eightieths" as the part to be payable under the Agricultural Rates Bill 1896.

Question put, "That the word 'eleven' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 129 ; Noes, 54.—(Division List, No. 381.)

Clause agreed to.

Clause 4,—

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

## MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

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## STANNARIES BILL [H.L.].

Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

[Progress 3rd August.]

Clause 1,—

ABOLITION OF VICE-WARDEN'S COURT.

(1.) On the commencement of this Act the Court of the Vice-Warden of the Stannaries shall cease to exist except for the purpose of continuing and concluding proceedings pending in that Court at that date, and as from that date all jurisdiction and powers of the said Court and its officers shall, except as aforesaid, be transferred to and vested in such of the County Courts as the Lord Chancellor may by Order direct, and be exercised subject to and in accordance with Rules of Court for regulating the procedure in County Courts.

(2.) Provision may be made by Order of the Lord Chancellor—

(*a*) for determining by, to, or before what officer, or in what office, may be done anything required to be done by, to, or before any officer or in any office of the said Court of the Vice-Warden;

(*b*) for transferring to a County Court any proceedings pending in the said Court at the commencement of this Act;

(*c*) for determining the place of sitting for the exercise of any jurisdiction transferred by this Act;

(*d*) with respect to the use and disposal of any property which at the commencement of this Act is held for the use of the said Court or of any officer of the said Court, and of any room or building which at that date is appropriated for the use of the said Court or of the Vice-Warden, officers, and suitors thereof; and

(*e*) with respect to the custody of any records which at that date are under the custody of the said Court.

Question again proposed, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) called attention to a provision in one of the sub-sections to the effect that the Lord Chancellor might, by order, determine what officer should be intrusted with the duties at present performed by the Vice-Warden of the Stannaries Court. That was an extraordinary proposal, and one of such a character, which he believed had never before been submitted to the House. It proposed, not that the functions of Vice-Warden should be transferred to a particular officer, but that the Lord Chancellor should practically have the power to appoint such officer and determine his functions, and that legislation should be taken out of the hands of Parliament, and left entirely to the Lord Chancellor. This was not the first abolition of an anomalous Court, but in no other case was it left to the Lord Chancellor or any other official, not only to appoint the new officer but to determine and limit his functions. The next sub-section of the clause transferred the jurisdiction of the Stannaries Court to the County Court. Nothing was gained by the abolition of those old Courts, which had adapted themselves by the experience of centuries to local needs. Similar proceedings had taken place in regard to local courts in Wales, at the beginning of the century. The change had not worked well. It meant the transfer of trials of cases, which would be much better decided on the spot, to London, practically, to the detriment of our judicial system, and considerable losses to the suitors. The House ought to object to this new system of legislation, which was a dangerous innovation. He further reminded the First Lord of the Treasury that to take such legislation as this, was contrary to the promise made when he proposed to abrogate the Twelve o'clock Rule.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he did not mean to examine the arguments of the hon. Member, nor to deal with the motives which had prompted the speech he had made. He agreed that the House ought not to be called upon at that hour to discuss this Bill, or any other business at length. In these circumstances, and seeing the spirit in which the Bill was opposed—he believed it to be a non-contentious measure—he moved to report progress.

MR. ARTHUR STRAUSS (Cornwall, Camborne) said this Bill was of immense importance to his constituency, and he hoped the Government would find time this week to pass the Bill. It was absolutely necessary for the welfare of the Cornish mining industry, that the Bill should pass this Session.

MR. W. A. MCARTHUR (Cornwall, St. Austell) hoped that an understanding would be come to that this useful Bill with regard to which the Cornish Members were unanimous, would be passed this Session.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said if an understanding was come to he should be delighted to proceed with the Bill.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

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### TELEGRAPH MONEY BILL.

Third Reading deferred till Thursday.

### OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] further adjourned till Thursday.

### VEXATIOUS ACTIONS BILL.

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

### BURGLARY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

### LARCENY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday.

### PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

### SUPPLY [31ST JULY] REPORT.

Further Consideration of Postponed Resolutions deferred till To-morrow.

### WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY GUARANTEE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

### EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Committee deferred till Thursday.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of July last, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at Twenty-five
minutes after One o'clock.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Wednesday, 5th August 1896.*

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## HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND (PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURE).

Return [presented 26th June] to be printed.—[No. 328.]

## FEE FUND (HOUSE OF LORDS).

Account [presented 4th August] to be printed.—[No. 329.]

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## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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## AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS' AND BURGH LAND-TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

[Progress, 4th August.]

Clause 4,—

### APPLICATION OF PAYMENT TO LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND) ACCOUNT.

The sums paid to the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account under this Act in respect of any financial year shall be applied by or under the direction of the Secretary for Scotland in manner following (that is to say):—

(1.) In paying to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue the sums payable during that year for Land Tax by Royal burghs and burghs of barony or regality in Scotland; and

(2.) In transferring to an authority to be hereafter determined by Act of Parliament the sum of *fifteen thousand pounds* for the Improvement of Congested Districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, such sum to be applied as may be provided in the said Act, and until so applied to remain to the credit of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account; and

(3.) In distributing the balance among County Councils and Parish Councils in Scotland in proportion to the deficiency, ascertained and certified as hereinbefore provided, in each case arising from the provisions of this Act in the produce of rates, leviable by the said Councils respectively.

(4.) Every sum paid or payable under this Act out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account to any authority in respect of any rate shall for all purposes be deemed to have been raised or to be raisable from occupiers by the said rate."

**MR. J. CALDWELL** (Lanark, Mid) moved to omit Sub-section (1). The Land Tax was not a tax which was levied upon all burghs. It belonged to the period of the old burghs, and, since the old burghs were in existence, a great many new burghs had been created where there was no Land Tax. Therefore, one objection which he had to the Burgh Land Tax sub-section was that they were taking national money and applying it to a portion merely of the community in order to relieve them of a particular burden. For his part, he would perfectly approve of the direct abolition of the Land Tax in burghs in Scotland, but it should not be done in this particular way. They should give to every burgh its fair quota of the Scotch money, and then allow each burgh that wanted to redeem the Land Tax to relieve themselves of it out of their own share of the Scotch money which belonged to them. Why should they be allowed to do it out of money which belonged to the rest of the community? If they wanted to redeem the Land Tax, let them do it under the Finance Bill. Since the Land Tax was imposed, the valuation of land had enormously increased in these burghs; and, if they were anxious to get rid of this tax, it would be a small rating that would be imposed on the proprietors. The fact was this was merely a sop to facilitate the passage of the Bill. Under the Finance Act, England would get out of the Imperial purse, for the reduction of her Land Tax, £100,000 a year; and they were proposing to relieve Scotch taxpayers of the Land Tax—but, how were they going to do it? They were going to do it out of Scotch money, while, in the case of England, they were doing it out of Imperial money. It was monstrous on the part of the Government to relieve the Burgh Land Tax in Scotland out of Scotch money, whilst they were relieving the Land Tax in England out of the Imperial Treasury. He did not object to Scotch burghs relieving themselves of this burden, but they ought to do it out of their own share of the Scotch money.

MR. ROBINSON SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire) said there was an injustice connected with this clause which was indicated by subsequent Amendments. He had heard a rumour that that injustice would be done away with. He referred, of course, to the case of burghs which had already redeemed the Land Tax.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am going to accept the Amendment of the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for the Dumfries Burghs (Sir Robert Reid) later on.

MR. T. R. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) was opposed to the sub-section, and also to the second sub-section, not only on the limited ground indicated by the hon. Member for Mid Lanark, but also because he held that it was quite absurd to continue a tax which, yielding £9,000 a year, took £2,000 a year to collect. If the Land Tax was to be done away with, it should be done by the Finance Minister through the Budget. He objected to taking this money out of this particular fund for this particular purpose. The Government, he contended, were not entitled to take money for other purposes than the relief of agricultural tenants in accordance with the declared object of the Bill. In Scotland as elsewhere, they suffered from high rents and low prices, and agricultural distress existed there. That was the main object of the Bill, and the occasion for its introduction was a claim in England, though not in Scotland, for an alteration in the law of rating. The Government had in consequence agreed to determine the agricultural rating by a half, and they had given the whole sum necessary to England for that purpose. But now they said that in order to carry out the system of the equivalent grant a similar sum would be allocated to Scotland. He was opposed to both Bills, but accepting the foundation on which they were based, he said the Government were bound to give a sum similar to that allocated to England. If they went outside that sum they should go outside for the purpose of general Scottish interests, but in the two directions in which the Government had gone outside they had gone to limited interests and communities in Scotland. That was very unfair. In the interests of the Bill itself he strenuously opposed the two sub-sections by which the Government proposed to divert a portion of the money which belonged to the agricultural tenants of Scotland.

MR. J. COLVILLE (Lanark, N.E.) said that hon. Members who represented large police and Parliamentary burghs objected to this distribution of Imperial funds to one section of the burghs of Scotland. He supported the rejection of the sub-section.

MR. J. G. HOLBORN (Lanark, N.W.) said he had experience of the land tax in Scotland and pointed out that it was not levied as a rule on any rational system in the Scotch burghs. In his own burgh the tax was levied not on the land but on the trade carried on in certain streets in the town. It was not a general tax over the town, and it was costly in its collection. Indeed, the collection of the tax was a farce, and it ought to be abolished; and if that was the feature of the Government's proposal he held that it was a good feature. He was glad to see that the tax was being dealt with in the Bill.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said that, as a representative of one of the burghs affected by this provision, he thought they were entitled to inquire what would happen if the equivalent grant had been equally distributed. In the burghs which he represented the land tax amounted to £175 a year. Under the distribution hitherto observed in the equivalent grant the proportion would be about £3,000 instead of £175. Supposing that this £175 had to come from Imperial taxation, no doubt it would have been received as a public advantage; but why should it come from this equivalent grant? The case of England had been cited which received a remission of £100,000 land tax. That was to be dealt with partly by means of Scottish money; but in Scotland they had to buy the remission of the land tax out of their own money. That was part of a system which was grossly unfair in its operation. It might be said that the land tax was extortionate and difficult to collect in England; but this was none the less true of Scotland, where it was both costly to collect and extortionate. On the whole he thought that the clause was indefensible.

Mr. R. B. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said he found himself in agreement with his hon. Friend the Member for North-West Lanark on this matter. ["Hear, hear!"] He was wholly without any instructions from his constituents on the subject. He represented agriculturists and three Royal burghs. It showed how profound was the interest taken in Scotland in this matter that he had not had a single word of communication from either one party or the other on the matter; and, so far as he knew, they were in a state of complete apathy about these provisions, so at present he was free to take a judicial view of the question. [*Ministerial laughter and cheers.*] And his judicial inclinations led him to the same conclusion as his hon. Friend. When one had to spend money on agricultural land, or congested districts, or the remission of the Land Tax, one asked why should not the burghs have the benefit of these doles when they were going about? He was sure they would not object to it. ["Hear, hear!"] He thought the Amendment an unfortunate one, and he would vote against it.

The LORD ADVOCATE said he intended to stick to the clause. The hon. Member for Aberdeenshire put very fairly two considerations for the Bill. But he forgot the third, which was that there was a grant here which represented the contribution from personalty to realty. The Land Tax was an imposition made long ago upon burghs representing realty at that time, and accordingly it seemed quite in accordance with the general views of the Bill, though, no doubt, it was not the main one, to give this relief. It was certainly all the better to give this relief when they were saving a great deal of money which was now misused by saving the enormous expenses of collection—£3,000 a year, of which £1,300 would go straight into the pockets of the burghs themselves. With regard to the distribution of the money among Royal burghs, it was much better to take it as it had been divided by the Convention of Royal Burghs. There was a contention that this ought to have been done under the Finance Bill, whereby the English Land Tax was redeemed at the expense of the Imperial Exchequer; but if what might be called the excrescences of a tax were penned off where they pressed most, he did not think that the mere fact that the excrescences happened to be in England, Scotland, or Ireland created a necessity. In the proper sense of an equivalent grant, it was clear what they were doing in this Bill did not conclude the question, which was still to be taken as open and arguable. He was struck by the conflict of interest of the hon. Member for Leith, in his capacity as Member and in his capacity as laird of land bearing unearned increment round the "Lang Toon of Kirkcaldy." [*Laughter.*] At the close of his speech they had a judgment of Solomon, which proceeded to give the infant in favour of the town of Kirkcaldy—[*laughter*]—and he hoped he would have the benefit of the hon. Member's vote on this occasion. [*Ministerial laughter and cheers.*]

Mr. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs) said the principle of any distribution of Treasury money should be as far as possible for the benefit of the whole population. Of the three burghs he represented, Hawick, the largest, got nothing from this money. Galashiels got nothing, and Selkirk, by far the smallest, got a small dole. These burghs, which were contributors to the British Treasury, and should get the sum of £2,500 by a fair distribution, got the sum of only £11 14s. The Lord Advocate had said the money was distributed according to the recommendation of the Convention of Royal Burghs. But it was the first time he ever heard a legislative proposal in the House seriously defended on the ground of the distribution of money because it was a Convention of Royal Burghs proposal. The proposal perpetrated a clear injustice on the police and Parliamentary burghs. Why, if they were making a grant to the burghs, not leave them to distribute the money according to the wisdom of the locality? If Hawick had had equal money granted to it it would have applied it in the interests of technical and secondary education. ["Hear, hear!"]

*MR. R. WALLACE (Perth) said this clause was one of the exceptions to the rule that the grant of money under the Bill would go to one class only, whereupon his hon. Friend near him turned round and objected to what he (Mr. Wallace) regarded as one of the few redeeming features of the Bill. In Perth, several hundreds a year fell on the rates through this tax. The hon. Member for the border burghs asked why Hawick was not to have a share of this money. The answer was because Hawick was not suffering as Perth had been suffering for years past from the unjust tax now proposed to be abolished. [*Ministerial cheers.*] He strongly supported the Government in this matter.

DR. CLARK supported the Amendment. He said the landlords were a class of unjust stewards, who wished to get rid of the conditions under which they obtain their land, and yet retain possession of it.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said he would support the Amendment, but on different grounds to those put forward by some of his hon. Friends. In Dundee, instead of the Land Tax falling upon land, it fell largely upon shipowners. It was, in fact, a tax upon personal property.

*MR. J. McLEOD (Sutherland) said that whatever the tax might be now, originally it was a tax upon land. The opposition of some of the burgh Members on his own side of the House was very amusing. The county Members had shown greater respect for principle on this question than the burgh Members, and the Committee ought not to be guided by the question of whether some particular burgh Royal would benefit by this clause to the extent of a £5 note. The only result of this Bill would be that those who have paid rates for years will cease to pay them. That, in his view, would be a mere dole to the ratepayers. The law at present was that the landlord should pay 4s. in the pound on their rack rents, but by this Bill that 4s. in the pound was to be reduced to 1s. in the pound. The way that that rate arose was that certain privileges were given to certain traders, and that this was the price which they paid for their monopoly. That House had taken away the privileges that were conferred upon the Royal Burghs under the old Scotch Act, for the purpose of making the rates more fair and equal. Why should all the burdens under which men bought their land be removed? The amount paid by the Royal Burghs was utterly insignificant, in some cases it being only £1 10s. 1d., and in only about a dozen instances it being any amount of importance. The fact was, that, having got this money to spare, the Government did not know what to do with it. Having taken off half the agricultural rates in England, they felt themselves compelled to appropriate a proportionate sum to the relief of the rates in Scotland. Up to 50 years ago, the occupiers in Scotland paid no rates at all—they being invariably paid by the landlords. The present Government, however, appeared to be predisposed against all burdens upon the land. But when men bought land they bought it with all the burdens upon it, and it was unfair to give the landowners relief at the expense of the other classes of the community. The landowners were unjust stewards, who were endeavouring to shift their own proper burdens, which they had deliberately undertaken, upon the shoulders of the people. In fact, they had drawn up a kind of "no rate" manifesto for themselves. In his view this Bill would tend to promote that Radical feeling in Scotland which the reign of the Liberal Party had done so much to undermine. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said that in his opinion it was absurd to describe this Burgh Land Law as a Land Tax at all, seeing that it was levied upon shipping and houses in towns and upon railways.

*MR. McLEOD said that in his view the very name "Burgh Land Tax" showed that this was originally a Land Tax, and he could see no ground for this proposed relief from hereditary burdens. The speeches of the borough Members in favour of relief from this burden were very amusing. The county Members had shown greater respect for principle on this question than the burgh Members, and the Committee ought not to be guided by the question of whether some particular burgh Royal would benefit by this clause to the extent of a £5 note. The only result of this Bill would be that those who had paid this tax for years would cease to pay it. In his opinion, if it came to a question of relief, it was the Highlands of Scotland, and not the Royal Burghs, which required it most. ["Hear, hear!"]

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) said he thought that the Committee would be disposed to treat this question in a practical manner. Of course, this grant of a certain sum of money to certain burghs could not be accepted as a set-off against the grant which was proposed to be given to the country districts. From that point of view, of course, it failed altogether, because there were large and growing burghs which would get no advantage—["hear, hear!"]—while others which may be in a more decaying condition would get a certain advantage. He had been amused at the difficulties of some of his hon. Friends who were torn two ways. It was ridiculous to look upon it as a compensation to town communities for what was being given to country communities, because it left out many of the town communities in Scotland, but he did not regard it from that point of view. This was an impost which was open to the greatest objection. It was most costly to collect, and it was collected in many instances in a most haphazard way. His hon. Friend the Member for Dundee had said that in Dundee a great part of this charge fell on shipowners and other people engaged in business, and to call that a Land Tax was quite absurd. It was irregular and costly, and on these grounds should be abolished.

MR. THOMAS HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) said he represented six burghs, some of which would benefit under this clause. He regarded the proposal, however, as unsound in principle.

MR. CALDWELL said this Land Tax had been separated by Act of Parliament, and that which was allocated in Scotland was collected in Scotland, and that which was allocated in England was collected in England. If, therefore, they were going to relieve the tax in Scotland out of Scotch money, they ought in England to relieve it out of English money. If they took it out of Imperial money Scotland was entitled to an equivalent grant.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) said he was astonished to hear his right hon. Friend the Member for Stirling Burghs advocate the abolition of this tax. England originally had her Land Tax, and a certain proportion of that Land Tax was by the Act of Union placed on Scotland, and the county districts were still paying that. There had been no reply given by the Lord Advocate as to whether this tax should be abolished at Scotch or English expense. England was this year going to pay £100,000 less, and he contended that Scotland should benefit, and not Ireland, because when the Act of Union took place this tax was small, and Ireland was free from the Land Tax. They were by this proposal changing one of the principles laid down in the Act of Union, and placing a greater burden on Scotland than she ought to bear.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie) said he understood that no answer had been given to the various objections because these had been so self-contradictory. The city of Glasgow was entirely in favour of this clause, and, generally, did not object to the Bill. In Glasgow they felt the absurd anomalies of this antiquated tax.

Amendment negatived.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON moved, in Sub-section (1), after the word "Tax," to insert the words "and King's mails."

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he had already practically given his reasons why he could not accept the Amendment, in answer to a question put to him by an hon. Member on the subject.

Amendment negatived.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) moved to insert at the end of Sub-section (1), "In paying to any burgh a sum equal to the annual amount of the Land Tax redeemed by such burgh." Some of the burghs of Scotland had redeemed the Land Tax. Dumfries was a conspicuous example of that self-denial, having last year entirely wiped out the Land Tax, which amounted in its case to £117 a year. Now that the Government proposed to abolish the Land Tax altogether, it was only fair that burghs which had redeemed the tax should have some consideration, and he was glad to say that the Lord Advocate—whose fairness in this matter he sincerely acknowledged—had accepted the Amendment.

MR. J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) thought the Amendment was introducing a principle that was exceedingly novel in legislation. He wished to know for how many years the proposed consideration would go back; would it apply in every case of a burgh that had redeemed its Land Tax; and what was the amount of money to be paid?

THE LORD ADVOCATE said there was no going back in any sense. What would happen in the case of Dumfries, whose quota of the Land Tax was £117 a year, was that it would get £117 a year for the five years the Act would be in operation. The same principle would apply to every burgh which had applied its Land Tax.

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean) said the Committee had now reached the only point of the Bill in which the Members who were not Scotch Members were concerned. He referred to Sub-section (2), which proposed to set aside a sum of £15,000 for a Board which was to be constituted by a subsequent Act of Parliament on the model of the Irish Congested Districts Board. Many Members doubted whether it was justifiable to differentiate districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and in Ireland from districts in England and Wales, where poverty and congestion just as great existed, and apply this special class of relief legislation to Ireland and Scotland only. He had not that knowledge of the working of the Irish Congested Districts Board to enable him to pronounce with confidence upon it, but from what he did know of it he doubted whether its working had come up to its principles. He therefore moved the omission of the Sub-section.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said the Government were not committed to the policy of setting up a Congested Districts Board in Scotland. The application of the £15,000 was a matter for future consideration; and the Government would refuse any Amendment which proposed to tie them down to any particular scheme. On the general question, he thought there was a consensus of opinion in Scotland that there were some districts of that country where the difficulty of obtaining the means of subsistence pressed so heavily on the inhabitants that there was a necessity for some special assistance.

*MR. McLEOD expressed the opinion that, had it not been for the operation of certain laws passed by the Imperial Parliament, the people of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland would not be to-day in the position of having to come to the House to ask for assistance. By those laws practically the whole of the population of his constituency were at the beginning of the century lifted out of their ancestral homes, and those of them who were not compelled to emigrate were placed by the sea coast. The result was that in an area of 1,750,000 acres of land there was only a population of little more than 20,000, and yet a considerable portion of that population were in an extreme condition of poverty. The average size of a holding in this area was not more than two acres, and the average rent of the holdings was £3. He marvelled more and more every day how the people could exist in such circumstances. It was essential that the House should do something to remedy that condition of things which had been brought about by the operation of Acts which had been passed by Parliament. In his view Parliament could give greater relief to the population of Scotland than the proposed system of grants-in-aid would do. The Crofters Act was of the kind of legislation he referred to. But the Crofters Act of 1886 was passed, not for the purpose of replacing the Crofters in the holdings from which they had been evicted, but to fix fair rents and protect the tenants' improvements in respect of their new holdings. In the Report of the Scotch Deer Forests Commission, which was presented to Parliament last year, it was stated that by fixing fair rents the impression had been removed from the minds of the Crofters that they were being made to pay rents on their own improvement, and generally the condition of the people had been improved. It was perfectly clear that

that House could legislate in such a way as would place the Highland districts in a better position than they would occupy under this proposal of a grant-in-aid. But unfortunately a Tory Government were in power, and they could not look to them for any effective reform of the Land Laws of Scotland. But although they might not be able to get land reform from them, a Tory Government did sometimes give money. If they could not get the best thing from the Government they must try and get the next best thing. Indeed, the only complaint that he had to make against the Government in this matter was that they had not given a sufficient sum of money for the purpose in view. At the same time he had the strongest objection to the sub-section in its present form. The Government proposed to ear-mark a certain sum of money, not for any definite object, but for the general purpose of improvement in congested districts. They had not, as yet, the slightest indication as to what the Government proposed to do with this money, with the exception of the statement of the hon. and learned Member for Inverness, who had been unable to say more than that it should not be used for the purposes of emigration. He did not know whether in making that statement the hon. and learned Gentleman was speaking for himself or on behalf of the Government. In the latter case he should assume that the Government had given up their absurd idea of relieving the congested districts by removing a few score of families from there to parts abroad. The main and chief objection that he had to the sub-section in its present form was that the Committee were asked to vote money without being told what was to be done with it. To his mind that was a very extraordinary proposal. He certainly could remember no case in which it was proposed to take a certain sum of money for the improvement of particular congested districts without any statement being made as to how the money was to be applied. Before the Committee passed from this sub-section they ought to know what the mind of the Government was on this particular point. With regard to the proposal to set up a Congested Districts Board, the Lord Advocate had stated that the mind of the Government was perfectly open; he hoped that it did not mean that it was perfectly vacant. At the last election, both Parliamentary and County Council, the county of Ross, which contained the most distressing problem of landlord-made congestion, had this question of a Congested District Board fairly and squarely before them, with what result? The candidate who advocated the proposal was ignominiously defeated on both occasions. The Highland people, like others, were beginning to find out what was for their own interest, and they did not want to see certain congested districts stereotyped into pauper warrens. Congestion in the Highland districts would cease to-morrow if the landlords would only throw open the land to the people. According to a unanimous Report of a Commission composed of Members on both sides of the House, there were at the present time close upon two millions of acres of land in the Highlands which were available for small holdings. How was that fact reconcilable with the theory of congested districts? One of the suggestions upon the Paper was that this money should go to the Crofters' Commission, which was already an existing authority which had an intimate knowledge of all the circumstances of the case. There was also a very practical suggestion made in the Report of the Deer Forests Commission—namely, that something should be done towards improving the quality of the stocks and crops on the present holdings. Nothing could be better than that the Crofters Commission should in a small way improve the condition of the people in these areas by administering the sum to be granted under this Bill in this particular manner. There was also a suggestion that this money should be given to the Fishery Board for Scotland. That also was a suggestion which, he thought, would meet with the entire sentiment of the people in this matter. The Highlands had undoubtedly been neglected in the past in the matter of harbour accommodation, and it would be a very proper thing to hand the money over to the Fishery Board for Scotland, and allow them to spend it either in building new or in improving existing harbours. Another suggestion he would venture to press upon the Government was that they should hand the money over to the Highland County Councils to administer, and they would deal with it just as well as it was admitted they did with the other moneys which they already received. It appeared to him that, under the circumstances he had indicated, the Government should not do anything that would be the means of stereotyping a condition of things which need not exist for a single day if that House and the parties concerned would only agree to put an end to it.

MR. BUCHANAN observed that the feeling which the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had given utterance to with regard to opinion in that House and England was shared in many parts of Scotland. He was glad to hear the hon. Member for Sutherland say that the ground upon which the Highlands came to the House for relief was that a great deal of their poverty was due to bad legislation. That was the only justification for what had been done, and that was why the exceptional treatment extended to the Highlands had hitherto met with general approval. He did not think the House and the Government ought to go further than that. There was considerable jealousy and distrust of any further extension of proposals of this sort. There was a suspicion that a good deal of the money which had been exceptionally given in the Highlands and Islands had not been very profitably used, partly through bad management and partly through other causes, and in this respect he was sorry to see the present Government was still further advancing in this direction by the present Bill and by proposals like the West Highland Railway Bill, because, from a financial point of view, he thought they could not, but apprehend considerable loss of public money. With regard to the other and more important aspect of the question, he considered there was great reason for the expression of opinion one found in parts of Scotland, and to which the right hon. Baronet had given utterance. There were many poor people in this country and in Scotland, who were very similarly situated, and suffered very similar grievances and difficulties as did the people in the Highlands. There were crofters outside the Highland counties who experienced many of the same grievances; there were enterprising fishermen in other parts, who were without harbours and could not get the money to make them. They did not grudge the legislation that had been passed and the aid that had been given to the crofters and fishermen in the Highlands, but the more and more the system was extended the more and more would they come to ask why if they were in a similar condition, similar legislation could not be brought forward to remedy similar grievances? They would ask why further public money should be devoted to harbour construction in places where the fishing was less valuable, and the population were not more enterprising than in the East of Scotland. While the other parts of Scotland did not grudge anything that might be necessary to do away with the evils inflicted on the Highlands, they did look upon this exceptional treatment as regarded administration and legislation for one part of the country alone as a thing to be avoided as much as possible, and one which the House should be very jealous of extending without good cause.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) believed that when they were spending subsidies like these in Ireland and Scotland, hon. Members other than those representing Irish and Scotch constituencies were entitled to express their views. The only reason why the Lord Advocate defended the expenditure of the £15,000 in this particular district was because of the exceptional poverty which prevailed there. But there were other districts where great distress prevailed, and if the sum of £15,000 was to be spent in the Highlands the Government ought to be prepared to carry the principle much further. The hon. Member for Sutherland had pointed out that this was no remedy for the distress in the Highlands, and if the Government had the courage to restore these people to the fertile lands from which they had been driven in order that deer forests might be made, they would find a more effectual remedy for the congestion which had been thus caused than would be afforded by the expenditure of £15,000. Hon. Members were entitled as British taxpayers to object to the expenditure of £15,000 on what, after all, was not a remedy, and which enabled the Government to evade real responsibility in the matter. A winter or two ago there were districts in South Wales and in the Forest of Dean where there was much more distress and real congestion than there were in the Highland Districts, but the Government did not come to the assistance of that distress. The only distinction between the Highlands and other congested districts was that in the Highlands, and also in the West of Ireland, they had had disturbances which had called attention to the matter; the Government had thereupon proceeded to expend money in those places, but they would not do so in districts infinitely more distressed in Wales, but where the people had hitherto been peaceable.

**DR. CLARK** observed that the distress in Welsh districts and in the Forest of Dean was due to economic causes, not introduced by legislation, whereas in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland the distress was due to legislation. Legislation could not relieve distress due to economic conditions, but it could relieve distress which legislation had caused. He protested against the doctrine that the Scotch members had not the right to spend this money as they might determine. The money was to be set aside for some purpose. If it was to be set aside for the purpose of trying an experiment in migration he should have no objection, and should vote for the clause. They had tried two experiments—he thought £10,000 was one sum—in emigration, and they were ghastly failures. He himself sat upon the Committee that inquired into the question of emigration, and he went, as a Member of the Committee, to the Far West to look at the Colonies to form an opinion of the men there, and he came to the conclusion that it was a complete failure. He found every house unoccupied. The same thing had occurred in the other two districts. The colonists had not altogether gone, but the bulk of them had gone, and those who remained had not been paying their money. If they were going to try an experiment in Scotland tentatively, on a small scale, and were going to use this £15,000 for the purpose of trying migration, then he thought that would be a fair method of using a portion of this money. There was plenty of soil and of people. That was a question upon which until lately there were differences of opinion. The First Lord of the Treasury and the late Conservative Government all along held that there was not sufficient land on which men could live and thrive in the Highlands where the people could be placed.

**THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY** (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have never held that theory.

**DR. CLARK** thought he had heard the right hon. Gentleman express it.

**THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY** said what he had always held was that it was quite impossible to settle the districts to which reference had been made unless at enormous expenditure for individuals. They would have to set them up, not as people working tillage farms, but large farms, and they would have to provide them with stock.

**DR. CLARK** said that was a prophecy; but he would like to ask what was done with the people who were evicted during the clearances, when they were driven away from the good land to the seaside. He frankly admitted that to a large extent the soil of Scotland would not pay for capitalists' improvements, but it would pay for the improvements by the labour of the holder. If they allowed the crofters by their own labour to bring about those improvements, they would be able to do so. What they wished to know was whether the Government intended to use this money for harbour purposes. Personally, he should strongly oppose the money being frittered away in the erection of any more small harbours. The condition of things was this—that the land was in the hands of pluralist capitalist farmers. The result was that it was not properly cultivated, and the people were all congested in certain districts. What they required was a change of conditions. Let the people be transferred to these large farms, and, if an attempt was made by the Government in the way of migration, he thought it would be a useful method of spending a portion of the Scotch money, and he would gladly support it.

**MR. DALZIEL** (Kirkcaldy Burghs), who was received with Ministerial cries of "Oh," thought they were entitled to some explanation from the Government as to their intention in regard to this matter.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY thought it would be very unfortunate if they were to limit the functions to be performed by the Congested Districts Board or any set of officials who would be required to deal with this money. Undoubtedly one of the objects would be migration. That was part of the duties which fell upon the Irish Congested Districts Board. That board had endeavoured to carry it out as far as it possibly could. One of the difficulties they had to contend with in Ireland would not be found to exist in Scotland, because in Ireland it was found absolutely impossible to get land which was not already occupied by some other kind of holding. Whether or not this policy of migration could be carried out in Scotland on a great scale, or what amount of money would be required for that purpose, he would not, at that moment, venture to say, but that undoubtedly was one of the objects with which any board would be required to deal. Then another object of the board would be to improve such industries as already existed in the congested districts. No such result could possibly occur as that mentioned by one hon. Gentleman—namely, that of stereotyping the congestion in any district. On the contrary, the whole object of the Congested Districts Board was, as soon as possible, to get rid of the congestion and to make that state of things inapplicable to these districts He hoped that the general statement of the views of the Government would satisfy the Committee, and that they would not endeavour in this sub-section to lay down any limiting words as to the use to which this money might be applied.

DR. CLARK said he did not wish to introduce any limiting words. All he wanted was to ascertain what was the idea of the Government upon this matter, and, having heard the statement of the right hon. Gentleman, he should gladly support him.

MR. DALZIEL said it was an advantage to have received this fuller information as to the intentions of the Government from the right hon. Gentleman. So far as he was concerned he heartily supported the proposal of the Government. He could not refrain from pointing out the difference between the amount provided in this sub-section and the amount provided for in the West Highland Railway Bill. He would have very much preferred that the £250,000 had been included in this Bill, and the £15,000 given to the landlords in consideration of the making of the railway. They were satisfied from the statement of the First Lord of the Treasury that this £15,000 was going to be devoted to the interests of the working crofter population. That was really all they desired.

*MR. McLEOD wished to enter his most earnest protest against any idea of a Congested Districts Board.

SIR C. DILKE asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN (Glasgow, Bridgeton) moved to omit from Sub-section (2) the words "an authority to be hereafter determined by Act of Parliament," and to insert instead thereof the words "the Crofters Commission." That Commission, he said, had the greatest knowledge of the whole of the Highlands, and especially of the most congested districts. The President was a man of most remarkable power and of absolutely unequalled experience of the sort required for the administration of this money, and if they on that side of the House apprehended that it was the deliberate intention of the Government to create a new Board, or even that they did not share the feeling of confidence in the Crofters Commission which he and those around him entertained, they would be compelled to press the Amendment to a Division. One of the most remarkable qualifications of the Crofters Commission in dealing with the Highlands was the confidence which it inspired both among landlords and among tenants. Confidence was of very slow growth in the agricultural bosom, but it had flourished in this case, and the mass of good feeling which had accumulated itself around the Crofters Commission was only equalled by the enormous mass of experience and administrative efficiency which had gradually grown inside that Commission. He did not challenge the Government to give any positive answer. It would be enough for him to know that he was correct in interpreting what the Lord Advocate had said on the previous Amendment to mean that at this moment the Government had no intention of setting up a new Board, and that they entertained towards the Crofters Commission something of the feelings he had expressed.

THE LORD ADVOCATE remarked that, from what had been said by the First Lord of the Treasury and himself, it was quite obvious that what would fall to the Government to determine would be, first, what was the work to be done, and next, what was the body most capable of doing it. The body that would do the work would, to a great extent be determined by the character of the work to be done. Under the words of the clause it would certainly be open to the Government to take any existing body—about which he would not say a word one way or the other—and the Crofters Commission would be a possible competitor. But all this was entirely for the future, and it would be idle to say anything about it. He did not know the really non-existent mind of the Government on the matter. One absolutely cogent argument against admitting the Amendment was that the Crofters Commission as at present constituted had no administrative powers at all, and could do nothing with the money if they got it.

*MR. McLEOD: There are subsequent Amendments dealing with that point.

Amendment negatived.

*MR. McLEOD, in whose name an Amendment stood to increase the sum for the congested districts in the Highlands and Islands from £15,000 to £46,000, said there appeared to be some doubt as to whether that Amendment was in order.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: The Amendment is quite in order. The effect of it would be, of course, to decrease the amount available for the relief of agricultural rates by the sum by which the amount provided for the congested districts is increased. The hon. Member will observe that the subsection dealing with the matter of the congested districts comes second, and is, so to speak, a second charge on the funds available. The hon. Member is entitled to move to increase the amount, but of course the amount available for the relief of the rates will be diminished.

*MR. McLEOD moved, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the words "*fifteen thousand pounds*," and to insert instead thereof the words "*forty-six thousand pounds*." He said that the ground on which he did so was that in his humble opinion the sum proposed in the Bill was utterly and entirely inadequate for its object. Unless the Lord Advocate proposed to accumulate the sum available under the Bill, it would be of no use for any scheme. Divided among the six Highland counties, it only gave an annual sum of £2,300 to each, and, if they proposed to divide the money on the principle adopted when emigrating the people, it would only relieve a total of 75 families per annum, or a baker's dozen per county.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said that, had he wished, he could not accept the Amendment, because it would upset the whole of the calculations on which the Bill was based. If in future the scheme undertaken were of such a character that more money was required, it would no doubt be the duty of the Government to ask the House for further aid. This grant was only intended to provide the nucleus of a fund.

*MR. ALEXANDER WYLIE (Dumbartonshire) said that when the proportion of three-eighths was settled by Clause 1, he understood that the subsequent Amendments which stood in his name, and similar in character to those of the hon. Member for Sutherlandshire, would naturally fall.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said that his proposal had been to increase the sum from £15,000 to £20,000. But he wished to ask the Lord Advocate whether, in the event of a scheme being submitted for founding a forest school and experimental area in the Highlands, that scheme should be considered along with others. Any money spent on a specific purpose was better than relief of rates. The Royal Commission had dwelt on the importance of re-afforestation in the Highlands. Such a scheme would give a larger field of employment, and it did not stir the animosity of any particular section. Indeed, it was supported by all sections.

*MR. J. M. WHITE (Forfarshire) said that the proportion of five-eighths was, after all, only an approximation. His object in asking that the amount should be raised was that more money might be available for piers and harbours, and the fishery. The whole sum available in Scotland for the fishery was only £3,000 a year, and £1,500 from the Herring Brand surplus. That was no good, and indeed it was a curse, because it prevented the proper development of the fishery by larger special grants. He had it from an official source that the present demand for harbours in the Highland districts amounted to £250,000,000. This £15,000 was altogether trifling and contemptible.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the hon. Member was under a misapprehension as to the effect of the Amendment. It did not touch the amount of money available. That was fixed at eleven-eightieths.

*MR. McLEOD, in asking leave to withdraw the Amendment, stated, in further illustration of the inadequacy of the sum proposed by the Government, that in Lewis alone the sum of £31,090 12s. 6d. was required for roads, and £153,300 for harbours. The discussion he thought had been valuable as showing the inadequacy of the sum the Government had given.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. URE (Linlithgow) moved, in Subsection (3), to leave out the word "deficiency" and to insert instead thereof the word "amounts."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. URE moved, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words—

"in each case arising from the provisions of this Act in the produce of rates leviable by the said councils respectively,"

and to insert instead thereof the words "for the purpose of regulating such distribution."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5,—

CERTAIN ENACTMENTS, ETC., TO HAVE NO EFFECT DURING CONTINUANCE OF THIS ACT.

As from the fifteenth day of May next after the passing of this Act, and during the continuance thereof, section thirty-six of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act 1845, the Poor Law (Scotland) (No. 2) Act 1861, and all enactments which require assessments under the Public Health (Scotland) Acts to be levied in like manner as the assessment for the relief of the poor, and all classifications under the provisions of section thirty-six of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act 1845, shall have no force or effect.

MR. HALDANE moved, after the words "during the continuance thereof," to insert "Sections 35 and." He said the Amendment raised a point on which he understood the Government were willing to accept the view he ventured to put forward. Under Section 35 of the Poor Law Act of 1835, which relates to established usages, in any parish where the rate was distributed according to established usage it was left optional for the people of the parish to preserve the established usage. That was taken advantage of only in a very limited number of instances, he believed only 13 in all, but it had worked extremely oppressively. For instance, in Prestonpans in 1845 there were a large number of farmers, and very few owners of houses who were called farmers. The established usage, which at that time was quite fair, was that the rate should be divided in sixths, and that five-sixths should be borne by the farmers and the remaining one-sixth by the penars. Time went on, a railway ran through Prestonpans, the place became popular as a seaside resort, villas were built and coal pits sunk, and it was now a place where the non-agricultural interest predominated largely over the agricultural. But the established usage continued by which five-sixths of the rate were still paid by the farmers and one-sixth by the owners of property. That was a condition of things so monstrous that the North British Railway, who were not rated at all under the established usage, had, to their credit be it known, come forward and illustrated the untruth of the maxim that a corporation had no conscience, because they had said it was perfectly fair that they should pay half the rate to which they ought to be liable under an amended state of the law. Accordingly, he had framed a clause, the purpose of which was to suspend established usages just as classifications were suspended. This operated in very few parishes. The Lord Advocate had some words on the Paper to effect the same object, and he was quite agreeable to accept the right hon. Gentleman's words if he preferred it.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he was thoroughly in accord with what had been said by his hon. Friend. There was no doubt that the established wages were not worth keeping, and some of them were a gross injustice. He accepted the Amendment, but he invited his hon. Friend to withdraw it at this stage, and he would move the appropriate words later on in the sub-section.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE LORD ADVOCATE moved, after the word "assessments," to insert the words "leviable by county councils."

Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD ADVOCATE moved, after "1845" to insert the words "other than certified classifications and all established wages."

Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD ADVOCATE moved to omit the words "thirty-six," and to insert instead thereof the words "thirty-five."

Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD ADVOCATE moved, at the end of the clause to add—

> "Provided that, notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, a parish council shall have power (1) to alter any classification so as to enable it to become a certified classification, or (2) to depart from any certified classification.

MR. C. B. RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) asked whether the power to alter classification was only to apply to the incidence of rates on agricultural land, and was not to be continued to alter the classification as between subjects other than agricultural subjects.

*MR. McLEOD asked whether during the next five years the parishes who had not adopted the system of classification, but might see fit to do so, had the right to adopt a system of classification so long as they preserved the three-eighths of the valuation for agricultural subjects?

THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the power which existed under the proviso did not enable an alteration of the classification of other subjects *inter se.* Under the clause the power to adopt inter-classification had disappeared.

MR. ASHER suggested that the words "to adopt" should be inserted after the word "alter." It was quite true that the Board of Supervision generally confirmed any clasification that came up from the local authority, but he rather thought the ground for that was that the Board was very much disposed to pay great deference to local opinion in settling what the classification should be.

MR. RENSHAW said he was much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman, but, in order to make the matter perfectly clear, he would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman to agree to a small further Amendment, namely—to omit the word "to" and to insert "far as necessary."

THE LORD ADVOCATE signified his assent to this proposal.

Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD ADVOCATE proposed to omit from the proposed Amendment the words "depart from" in order to insert instead thereof the word "abandon."

Amendment to the proposed Amendment agreed to; Amendment as thus altered agreed to.

On the question, "That Clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill,"

MR. AUGUSTINE BIRRELL (Fife, W.) said that, having regard to the Amendment that had just been made, he could not help thinking that the only thing their clause affected was the destruction of that state of things which the Lord Advocate promised should be preserved as much as possible during the continuance of the Act. The Lord Advocate had told the Committee that if the Bill passed it would be no longer possible for any parish during its continuance to adopt a classification. He thought that was a matter of very considerable importance. There was nothing wrong in classification *per se.* On the contrary it was a very right and proper principle, and he wanted to know why every parish should be prevented from adopting it during the five years the Bill was to be in operation. They were told that all the Bill did was to remedy in a partial manner what was believed to be an injustice—though it had never been proved to be one—and that pending such inquiry, this solatium was offered to the agricultural tenants. Assuming that to be a good object, he contended that this clause was quite unnecessary, except for the object of preventing Scotch parishes doing that which for a long time past, nearly half a century, they had been able to do. On that ground he opposed the clause.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the reason why it was proposed to take away their power was that the inquiry was pending, and it would be a great misfortune if, when general legislation was embarked upon, they should have to deal with more classifications of different kinds than then were existing.

DR. CLARK contended that by abolishing classification the House was taking out of the hands of the new Parish Councils a very valuable power. What was wanted was discrimination and graduation, and they could only be obtained by classification; and now, just after the establishment of Parish Councils, they were to be prevented from making the necessary changes which would get rid of some of the unfairness that now existed.

MR. URE urged that reform in local rating could not be had without classification. The Lord Advocate's desire was to stop all rating authorities from classifying, yet he told the Committee that it was immediately necessary to have an Inquiry. What would throw more light on such an Inquiry than an examination into what the local rating authorities had actually done. The new Parish Councils had not yet had time to look about them and make up their minds whether they would adopt the provisions of the Poor Law Act of 1845. He would appeal to the Lord Advocate not to maintain a rigid attitude upon this question, but to give to the local authorities a free hand to go on with classification during the continuance of the Bill.

*MR. McLEOD said the Lord Advocate had made a very significant remark on the introduction of this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Highland Parish Councils had persisted in sending up to the Local Government Board what the right hon. Gentleman was pleased to call sumptuary classifications; in other words, because the new Parish Councils proposed to place the burden on those who could best bear it. But was not this alleged sumptuary classification only their old friend "means and substance" in another form? Remarks had been made upon the comparatively small number of parishes in Scotland which had adopted classification, but it must always be remembered that in many parishes there was no call for classification, as, being purely rural, there was but the one class of property. In other cases, where there was no classification, it was due to the fact that the landlords and the Established Church clergy were practically the local authorities until the institution of the Parish Councils, and they objected to classification and were not likely to differentiate property for rating purposes in a way that would tell against their own interests. He, therefore, objected to a proposal that would tie the hands of the new Parish Councils and the Local Government Board in relation to this matter for the next five years. He was strongly of opinion that the Committee ought not to pass the clause in its present form. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. E. ROBERTSON said it almost appeared, from what had been said in the discussion, that the Board of Supervision was so anxious to get justice for agricultural land that it did not trouble itself with the injustice inflicted upon other property by classification. He hoped that the Inquiry would be entered upon as rapidly as possible.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he could not allow the remarks of the last hon. Member to pass unchallenged. He (the Lord Advocate) did not mean to say that the Board of Supervision did not approve of classification. The members of the Board were actuated by the highest sense of duty in seeing justice done. What he had tried to convey was that the Board of Supervision, in approving of classification, must not be taken as approving of the principle upon which the classification had been constructed.

MR. ALEXANDER ASHER (Elgin Burghs) said that the essential point on which they were challenging this Bill, was that it would have the effect of taking away from the parishes in Scotland the power which they now possessed under the Act of 1845, to classify property for rating under the Poor Law Acts. They would be perfectly willing to agree that no further classification should take place, with the exception that agricultural land should have all the benefits to which it would be entitled under the provisions of this Bill. But that ought not to be carried one inch further than the benefit which it was intended to confer upon such land by this Bill. The right hon. and learned Gentleman, however, went further and said, that pending the Inquiry that was to take place, he should proceed to make such an alteration in the law of Scotland as would take away from the parishes the power which they now possessed under the Act of 1845, of making a classification. Was it in the interests of the community that that power should be taken away from the Scotch parishes? He could not conceive what was the object of a proposal of that kind which was not rendered necessary by the objects of the Bill. Why should they gratuitously alter the law of Scotland in this respect, and deprive the parishes of the country of the power of classification, which they had possessed ever since the Act of 1845 was passed. He really trusted that the hon. and learned Lord Advocate would reconsider the position of the Government with reference to this question before the Report. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said that the hon. Gentleman did not appear to have sufficiently appreciated the effect of this Bill, as far as it bore upon the existing state of things in Scotland, and that this Bill contemplated, at no distant date, a general dealing with the law of rating in Scotland. Under these circumstances, it was surely desirable to maintain the existing state of things. His hon. and learned Friend proposed to do exactly the reverse. It was much more reasonable that they should preserve the existing state of things pending the result of the Inquiry. After the Inquiry had been completed a general dealing with the law of rating was contemplated, and surely it was more reasonable that they should preserve the existing state of things instead of giving to the parishes the power of altering them. It was no use saying they had the power of altering them at present, as it was not desirable that they should exercise it pending the result of the Inquiry.

MR. BUCHANAN said the Government were at the present moment altering the existing state of things, and what they asked was that, subject to the alteration which they were making, they should not further alter the existing state of the law. They contended that the Goverment were taking away a liberty from the Poor Law authorities which they had enjoyed since 1845, and which had never been abused. They had only recently altered the constitution of the Poor Law authorities in a popular direction, and it was therefore perfectly needless to alter the Poor Law system.

MR. HALDANE said the Scottish Members were wholly unable to understand the metaphysics of the Solicitor General for England, who said that this Bill did not propose to alter the system of law which now obtained in Scotland.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL said his hon. and learned Friend had entirely misunderstood him. Of course the Bill made certain alterations in regard to agricultural land and so on, but what he had said was, that in view of more complete legislation in regard to rating, it was not desirable that more extensive changes should be made through the action of classification in parishes.

MR. HALDANE said his hon. and learned friend had made confusion worse confounded. Under the present law every parish had a certain power in regard to classification, so that those best able to bear the burden of rating should bear the largest share. That was a system by which they set great store, and until that Debate they had certainly no conception that the Government would sweep away that provision without inquiry. His hon. and learned Friend said they were not really making a change, but were leaving things intact.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL: Preventing them from altering the *status quo*.

MR. HALDANE said that by doing that they would take away the power which was possessed at present of modifying the *status quo* in each parish. He hoped the Government would consider the matter between now and the Report stage.

MR. COLVILLE said the Parish Councils would look on this Bill as a deliberate attempt to take powers from them.

MR. J. B. BALFOUR (Clackmannan and Kinross) hoped the Government would consider the matter before the Report stage.

Question put, "That the word 'five' stand part of the Clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 163; Noes, 75.—(Division List, No. 382.)

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6,—

SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the Agricultural Rates, Congested Districts, and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Act, 1896.

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7,—

CONTINUANCE OF ACT.

This Act shall continue in force for *five years after the thirty-first day of March next* after the passing thereof, and no longer, unless continued by Parliament.

CAPTAIN PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) moved to limit the operation of the Bill to three years.

THE LORD ADVOCATE said he did not think the hon. Member was very serious in supposing that the Government would accept the Amendment. Five years was the period in the English Act, and it was necessary that the same period should be applied in the case of Scotland. After the Inquiry which was proposed to be held into the question of local rating there would be no difficulty in making provision for doing away with the temporary state of matters represented by the period of five years in the Bill.

MR. J. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that nothing that had taken place during the Debates in Committee had made those who were opposed to the Bill think any better of it than they did at first, and, therefore, the shortest time they could have the Bill in operation the better. In the burghs of Scotland public feeling was entirely opposed to the Bill, and even amongst the farmers in the north-east there was no great desire for it. Some farmers thought the true remedy would be a reduction of rent, others that the relief proposed to be given was too small to have any effect on their condition, while others again, he was glad to say, felt the injustice of such a class piece of legislation, and would be glad if the term of the Bill was as short as possible.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Stafford, Lichfield) supported the Amendment, on the ground that a shorter term would act as a goad to the Government to go a little faster in the matter of the proposed inquiry into local rating.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 163; Noes, 75.—(Division List, No. 383.)

Clause 7 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS: The Question is that I Report this Bill, as amended, to the House. [*Ministerial cheers.*]

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he did not intend to ask the House to deal with any other Bill that night. The first business to-morrow would be the Report stage of the Bill just passed, and he understood that no objection would be raised to the Third Reading being taken at the same time. The next business would be the West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, and after that the Scotch Votes would be put down.

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## MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## STANNARIES BILL [H.L.].

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

## WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY GUARANTEE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

## SUPPLY.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

## WAYS AND MEANS.

Committee deferred till Friday.

## LONDON UNIVERSITY COMMISSION BILL [H.L.]

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

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## SUPPLY [31ST JULY] REPORT.

Postponed Resolutions further considered.

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS II.

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £376,571, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for Stationery, Printing, Paper, Binding, and Printed Books for the Public Service, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Stationery Office; and for sundry Miscellaneous Services, including Reports of Parliamentary Debates."

**MR. HERBERT LEWIS** (Flint Boroughs) asked the Secretary to the Treasury what steps the Government intended to take to carry out the recommendations of the Select Committee which sat on the subject of official Parliamentary reporting the Session before last. One of the unanimous recommendations of the Committee was that the Members of the House should be supplied daily with a verbatim report of the previous day's Debates. Did the Government intend to take any, and if so, what steps to carry out this recommendation?

**MR. WARNER** asked whether the present system of reporting was to continue? He did not attach much importance to being reported himself. But many Members of the House attached great importance to being able to read the speeches. They often stayed away, and wished to have a complete account of what was said in their absence. But they were obliged to attend, because it was said that the reports were inefficient. The old system of reporting was better and more carefully carried out, though, of course, more expensive than the present system, which was considered very unsatisfactory by a great many Members of the House.

*__MR. J. McLEOD__ said that anyone who had the slightest knowledge of reporting must know that the present system was entirely bad. The system, as far as he could make out, was that a certain report was made from a certain publication, and then the reporter went back to his notes, and picked out an odd sentence here and there until he managed to make up the regulation quarter of a column. This was a state of things which should not be allowed to exist any longer. As far as he was personally concerned, he did not attach the slightest importance to whether he was reported or not, but he thought that, out of respect to the traditions of the House, they ought really not to allow to go into the "Parliamentary Debates" reporting of the character that now appeared there. Quite a number of hon. Members would not even take the trouble to correct their speeches, so highly absurd and ridiculous were some of the statements which were attributed to them. When they were spending so much money on Uganda and elsewhere, he thought that, out of respect for the traditions of that House, if for nothing else, they ought to have some system by which there should be some decent kind of reporting. They had only to turn to the columns of the leading Scottish newspapers to see that it could be done well, and not at an extravagant price. He certainly thought this was a matter to which the Financial Secretary should give his best attention. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not, as on the last occasion that he had to communicate with him, tell him to approach him through the Scottish Office.

**MR. T. LOUGH** (Islington, W.) wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he would be willing to give hon. Members a copy of the "Parliamentary Debates" each day with the other Papers distributed to Members of Parliament? He thought the "Debates" of the House was far the most important of the Parliamentary Papers which were printed, and yet it was that which there was the greatest difficulty in obtaining. He quite agreed that the speeches of Members were badly printed, and, perhaps, there was some advantage about that. Some of the Front Bench speeches were well printed, but, however much hon. Members might desire to study such speeches, they often experienced the greatest difficulty in obtaining them. With the Parliamentary Papers there should be one copy of the proceedings of the previous day's Debates sent to hon. Members when Parliament was in Session. He asked the Secretary to the Treasury to inform the House what he was doing or intended to do to carry out the recommendations of the Committee on Stationery Contracts, and what was being done by the present Departmental Committee.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield) expressed the hope that the Secretary to the Treasury would take some steps prior to the commencement of the next Session to reduce the expenditure on perfectly useless printing. Hon. Members received each day the print of Amendments to Bills which were not to be discussed, together with many other Papers with which they need not be troubled.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) ventured last year, with a number of hon. Members on both sides of the House, when the Stationery and Printing Vote came before the House, to press for the appointment of a Committee. Unfortunately the terms of reference to that Committee were so narrowed that they were precluded from going into the question of the expenses of printing. Roughly, the stationery ran into something like £1,000,000 a year. The reference to the Committee was confined to the narrow points embodied in the Report that the Secretary to the Treasury was asked to see carried out. It was his intention to again appeal to the Government to re-appoint that Committee, and to widen the reference, so that when they considered the question of the printing for the House of Commons, they might ascertain whether some substantial economies could not be effected. The whole question of the reporting of the Debates should also be gone into, so that, instead of getting the second-hand report they now got, they might obtain their report at first hand. It seemed to him that, when so much money was being spent in connection with the Printing Vote, and a Committee had been sitting for something like four months this year, there had been a waste of time seeing that the Committee had not brought up a single recommendation by means of which speeches could be better reported, and the enormous amount of waste paper—specimens of which they saw every morning — considerably diminished. Some of this waste paper, he was sorry to say, found its way into libraries and other places at a higher price than waste paper. He thought the House of Commons ought not to spend such a large amount as was spent upon the Department to which this Vote related, and he appealed to the Secretary to the Treasury between now and next February to discuss with the chief of the Stationery Office whether they could not have another Committee, to confine itself to the two points of the consideration of economies which might be effected in the amount now spent, and the better printing of the "Parliamentary Debates."

*THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston) was sorry that on the former Committee they had not the advantage of the assistance of the hon. Member who had just spoken, because, although he was a Member of that Committee, he withdrew after the first sittings, the Chairman having decided that the terms of the reference did not enable the hon. Member to go into certain subjects he desired to raise—such, for instance, as the setting up of a Government printing establishment. He fully agreed that very many useful reforms might be effected in connection with the Stationery Department, and in addition to the Committee which sat, and of which the hon. Member for West Islington and he were Members, he had appointed a Departmental Committee—Departmental in the sense that there were only two officials on it, the whole of the rest of the Committee consisting of Members of the House, chosen impartially. This Committee would go into the whole question of how far it was possible to effect economies in the Printing and Stationery Contracts of the Stationery Department, and he hoped a very substantial improvement in the system would be the result. With regard to the question put to him by the hon. Member for Islington, he had to say that certain of the recommendations of the Committee to which he had referred were already being carried out. There was one Government Department in regard to which, through no fault of its own, but through a misinterpretation by the contractors of the Resolution of the House of February 1891, certain work had not been carried out in accordance with the terms of that Resolution. He referred to the National Board of Education in Ireland. There could be no doubt whatever that this Department's printing did fall within the scope of the Resolution, and the work in future would be carried out in accordance with its terms. The hon. Member for Islington suggested that a copy of the "Parliamentary Debates" should be issued gratis to Members on each day of publication. There had already been several Debates as to the heavy expenditure incurred for printing, and he did not think they would be justified in making any further outlay in that direction. With reference to complaints—which he was bound to say were the first he had heard—of the reporting of speeches at the present time, he knew there was a feeling in the House a few years ago that all speeches should be reported at full length. He did not know whether a verbatim report of speeches would always be satisfactory to hon. Members. He should also doubt whether, except in exceptional cases, other hon. Members would be found to read those speeches. The late Government found that to report the speeches verbatim would entail a very heavy expenditure, and the present abridged report was adopted. Some hon. Members would perhaps like to see their speeches reported at greater length than they were under the present system. A certain proportion of each speech was bound to be given, and if hon. Members found the reports were not sufficiently long, they could make additions themselves when they got the proofs. As to the suggestion that the contract should be brought to an end, he did not see any reason for taking any such step. The complaints were few, and the present arrangement was that the contract should run until December 31 of next year, unless it was terminated by the Government previously. But if it was terminated before then they would have to pay a larger price for the "Parliamentary Debates." The charge now was £300 per volume, but if they terminated the contract, they would have to pay £350 per volume. He thought he had answered the different points that had been raised.

Resolution agreed to.

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £26,700, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Civil Service Commission."

Resolution further postponed.

Postponed Resolution to be considered further To-morrow.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of July last, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at Half after
Five o'clock.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Thursday, 6th August 1896.*

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## *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

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### CITY AND SOUTH LONDON RAILWAY BILL.

On the Motion for the Third Reading of this Bill,

Lord DORCHESTER said it had been deputed to him, in the absence of someone worthier, to say a few words on this Bill. It appeared that the Bill had been mutilated in Committee, and that a protective clause, Clause 7, had been struck out and a fresh clause substituted. The old clause would not have saved the structure and sacred nature of the edifice, but he was told the new clause would facilitate the sale of the Church of St. Mary Woolnoth, a church immediately adjoining the Mansion House at the corner of Lombard Street. It was in a most conspicuous situation, and an edifice of architectural merit, built by a pupil of Sir Christopher Wren on the site of an old Roman or heathen temple. The church was attended by the Lord Mayors of London, and most of those who had occupied that exalted position in recent years were desirous of saving it. He was informed that some of the bishops did not much desire its preservation; but they should consider that the chancel was to be turned into a railway ticket office and a shaft was to be sunk through the centre of the church. Eminent members of the Court of Common Council and many past Lord Mayors felt strongly on the subject. He begged leave to move that Clause 7 be reinstated in the Bill as it came from the House of Commons, in the place of the new clause introduced by the Lords' Committee.

*The Earl of MEATH said he heartily agreed with the words that had fallen from his noble Friend. It would be a great pity if St. Mary Woolnoth's Church was destroyed. Sometimes it was absolutely necessary that old churches should be destroyed. Then they had to yield to necessity; but in this particular case, there was no reason why that church should be destroyed. The promoters of the Bill did not desire it. The clause authorising it had been inserted simply and solely at the request of the rector of the parish. It was an extraordinary thing. Why the Rector of the parish should desire his church to be destroyed and turned into a railway station it was not for him to say. It was, however, well the House should remember that if the church were destroyed a large sum of money would be paid for it. He did not wish to presuppose that anything wrong would be done; but the money would be there, and a pension would be given to the Rector. That, of course, would be right; but he was afraid that if such terms were offered to many clergymen throughout the land, a certain number of our churches would meet with destruction. The clause inserted was inserted at the request of the Rector, and the clause inserted in the House of Commons protecting the church was struck out. He hoped their Lordships would re-insert the clause as it came up from the other House, by which the church would remain. The promoters of the Bill could make the railway without destroying the church, and he was sure their Lordships would feel that if this could be done this church, which was an old and important one, and the church of the Lord Mayor of the City, ought to be preserved. There was much feeling on the subject in the City, and amongst all interested in old churches, and a large meeting was held on the 22nd January at the Mansion House to protest against the destruction of the Church, with the result that, in the House of Commons a clause was inserted protecting the Church. The House of Commons went the length of instructing the Committee to insert a clause to protect the Church, and that clause the Committee inserted. It was an extraordinary thing that, at the last moment, without warning to anyone, the Rector should come and ask for his own church to be destroyed. It was with great pleasure that he (Lord Meath) supported the Motion.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The EARL of MORLEY) said he trusted the House would not assent to the Motion. This Bill was merely an extension of time Bill. The railway company had ample power, under an Act of 1892, to take away the church and sell it, and this Bill gave no new powers in that respect. The clause introduced in the House of Commons enabled a shaft 90 feet deep to be run through the bottom of the church, a hole to be made in the church wall to cart out rubbish, and there was to be a booking office in the crypt. The Committee of their Lordships' House to whom the subject was referred introduced another clause to enable the church and site to be sold, not at the request of the Rector, but because the Committee thought it right. If the noble Lord had any ground for suspicion, he thought it would be met by the seventh clause (which he himself had introduced since the Bill passed through Committee), which provided that the purchase money was to be paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to be dealt with as Parliament might hereafter resolve. The amount was only to be determined with the approval of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. He sincerely hoped the Bill would be allowed to go through in its present shape. If the Bill were lost, all the railway company would have to do would be to have recourse to the power under the Act of 1892, under which the supporters of the Motion would get less comfort than they got now.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (LORD HALSBURY) asked Lord Dorchester what was the meaning of Clause 7?

[Clause 7,—

(PROVISIONS AS TO CHURCH OF SAINT MARY WOOLNOTH.)

The following provisions shall be observed and have effect with reference to the Church of Saint Mary Woolnoth in the City of London (that is to say):—

(a) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Act of 1893 or shown on the deposited plans referred to in that Act the Company shall not, except as hereinafter provided, purchase or take any part of the Church forming part of the property numbered on the said plan 39 in the parish of Saint Mary Woolnoth, but the Company may purchase, take and use, and the owners and other persons interested in the said property shall sell, the surface of such other part of the said property as the Company may require for the purposes for which but for this section they might have purchased, taken or used the said Church, and an easement or right of using the sub-soil under any part of the property of which the surface shall not be purchased, including such part of the crypt and foundations of the said Church as the Company may require for the purposes as aforesaid.

(b) The Company may during the construction of the Railway and Works take possession of, use, and temporarily interfere with the structure of the said Church or any part thereof for the purposes of such construction, provided that the Company shall on the completion of the said Railway and Works and subject to the last preceding Subsection, deliver up the said Church and the furniture and fittings thereof in as good condition and state of repair as they were in when the Company took possession thereof.

(c) The amount of compensation to be paid by the Company for the portion of so much of the surface as is not occupied by the Church as shall be required by them and for the sub-soil and crypt, and for the temporary occupation of the Church and all other matters of difference shall, unless otherwise agreed, be determined by an arbitrator to be agreed on between the parties or in default of agreement to be appointed on the application of either of them by the Board of Trade, provided that the arbitrator to be so appointed shall in assessing the amount to be paid by the Company as compensation as aforesaid, take into consideration the additional liabilities and expenses entailed upon the Company in constructing the Railway and Works thereof without removing the said Church, and the costs of any arbitration shall be in the discretion of the arbitrator.

(d) The Company shall at their own cost make good any damage or injury which may during the construction of the Railway and Works be caused to the structure of the said church or any part thereof, or at any time after the completion of the said railway and works in consequence of the construction, use, or want of repair thereof.

(e) If the Company desire to obtain possession of the church for the purpose of constructing their Railway and Works before the amount to be paid to the owner as compensation shall have been determined by agreement or arbitration as herein provided, it shall be lawful for them to do so under the provisions of Section 85 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845.]

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The EARL of MORLEY) explained that the object of the clause—which he admitted might have been more definitely expressed, was to give the Ecclesiastical Commissioners some control over the amount of the purchase money.

Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; a further Amendment moved, and negatived; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES) BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order): the Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made: Standing Committee negatived: The Report of Amendments to be received To-morrow.

## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendment considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

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## CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 2) BILL.

LORD HARRIS had the following Motion on the Paper with reference to the Local Government Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill, to move:—

> "That the Order made on the 16th day of March last, 'That no Bill brought from the House of Commons confirming any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate shall be read a Second time after Tuesday the 23rd day of June next,' be dispensed with, and that the Bill be read 2ª."

The noble Lord said he had to ask leave to withdraw the Motion which stood in his name. He was in hopes up to the last moment that the opposition manifested to this Bill would have been withdrawn. It was a very important Bill relating to sanitary improvement in Esher, a neighbourhood that was rapidly becoming very thickly populated. A House of Commons Committee considered the Bill, and notwithstanding the opposition brought to bear against it, passed it. The opposition had been renewed in their Lordships' House, and though not numerically important it brought the Bill within the category of an opposed Bill, and he understood the Chairman of Committees would object to the suspension of the Standing Order being approved by their Lordships at this period of the Session in the case of an opposed Bill. He was, therefore, under the circumstances, obliged to ask leave to withdraw the Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

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## LAND LAW (IRELAND) BILL.

(Considered in Committee.)

[The EARL of MORLEY, CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES, in the Chair.]

### PART I.—LAND LAW.

Clause 1,—

FAIR RENTS.—AMENDMENT AS TO IMPROVEMENTS.

(1.) Where the court fix a fair rent for a holding, the court shall ascertain and record in the form of a schedule, unless both landlord and tenant shall otherwise request—

(*a*) the annual sum which should be the fair rent of the holding on the assumption that all improvements thereon were made or acquired by the landlord;

(*b*) the condition of the holding and the buildings thereon;

(*c*) the improvements made by the tenant wholly or partly by or at his cost, and with respect to each such improvement—

(i) the nature, character, and present capital value thereof, and the increased letting value due thereto;

(ii) the date (so near as can be ascertained) at which the same was made; and

(iii) the deduction from the rent made on account thereof;

(*d*) the extent (if any) to which the landlord has paid or compensated the tenant in respect of each such improvement;

(*e*) the improvements made wholly or partly by or at the cost of, or acquired by, the landlord;

(*f*) such other matters in relation to the holding as may be prescribed; and

(*g*) the fair rent of the holding;

and a certified copy of the record shall be sent by post to each party, and the record shall be admissible in evidence on its mere production from the proper custody.

(2.) No rent shall be allowed or made payable in respect of an improvement made by the tenant on a holding by reason only of the work constituting such improvement not being suitable to the holding.

(3.) For the purpose of the Land Law Acts, a tenant shall be deemed to have been fully paid or compensated for every improvement made by him in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration.

(4.) For the purpose of the Land Law Acts, a tenant shall not be deemed to have been paid or compensated for any improvement not made in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration, except to the extent to which the court, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, are of opinion that valuable consideration has been given by the landlord in respect of the improvement.

(5.) A contract by a tenant not to claim, on quitting his holding, compensation for any improvement made by him, shall not authorise the allowance of any rent in respect of any improvement except to the extent to which the court, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, are of opinion that valuable consideration has been given by the landlord in respect of the entering into that contract.

(6.) Section four of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, shall not authorise the allowance of any rent in respect of any improvement, provided that rent may be allowed in respect of an improvement made by the tenant, if made twenty years before the passing of the said Act, and not being a permanent building or reclamation of waste land.

(7.) For the purpose of this section valuable consideration shall not be held to have been given by reason of the mere letting of the land on lease or otherwise or the mere enjoyment by the tenant of any improvement where the rent of the holding was not fixed, reduced, abated, or, after the improvement was made, allowed to remain unaltered with the object of recouping the tenant for his expenditure of capital and labour in making the improvement; and in the case of an improvement made in pursuance of a contract entered into for valuable consideration, such object shall be implied where not expressed.

(8.) Sub-sections one, two, and four of section five of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, shall not have effect in the case of applications to fix a fair rent.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE) said, before his noble Friends Lord Monteagle and the Earl of Winchilsea moved the Amendments standing in their names, he would venture to make a suggestion to them, and that was that their Amendments should stand over for consideration at a subsequent stage of the Bill. The Amendments were both of them of extreme importance — [*cheers*] — and dealt with vital points in this part of the Measure. Both proposals had only been in the hands of the Government since that morning, and he thought they might fairly ask for a few hours, at all events, in which to consider them upon their merits, and also with reference to their consistency with the other provisions of the Bill. Both Amendments contained an entirely new feature—namely, that in the second and subsequent applications to the Court for the determination of a fair rent, the Court was to take as its point of departure the fair rent fixed at the time of the first hearing, and that basis was only to be altered with reference to the fluctuation of prices in the meanwhile, and with reference to the landlord's improvements and certain other matters. Neither Amendment could possibly be accepted without material alteration, and he did not think it would be possible for the Government to accept as a basis for the second and subsequent determination of a fair rent the fair rent fixed upon the first application to the Court. They were assured by the highest authorities that the fair rents fixed during the first two or three years after the passing of the Land Act, when there was an immense pressure of work upon the Court, were fixed under circumstances which would render it virtually impossible that those rents should be regarded as a proper basis for the fixing of subsequent fair rents. He made that reservation in fairness to the two noble Lords, and he trusted they would agree to the Amendments being considered at a subsequent stage. ["Hear, hear!"]

LORD MONTEAGLE confessed there was some ground for the appeal of the noble Marquess, but he might perhaps be allowed to say that he thought that noble Lords from Ireland had some ground of complaint that they had been driven somewhat into a corner. [*Cheers.*] He was quite prepared to accede to the suggestion on condition that the Government would approach the consideration of these Amendments with a perfectly open mind, and no advantage be taken of him and his noble Friend to the detriment of their proposals.

*THE EARL OF WINCHILSEA observed that, as his Amendment came at the end of the clause, he would ask to be allowed to reserve his decision until he had an opportunity of communicating with his noble Friends.

*VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN moved an Amendment providing that when the Court fixed a fair rent for a holding they should ascertain and record, in the form of a schedule,

> "The several classes of land found upon the holding, marking each class on a map, and showing in respect of each class the estimated area thereof, and the sum which should be the fair rent thereof (per acre or per class), on the assumption that all improvements thereon were made or acquired by the landlord."

The noble Lord explained that the whole of his Amendments to Clause 1 were based on the assumption that if a man's property was to be taken from him he was at least entitled to an account. ["Hear, hear!"] The noble Marquess, in introducing the Bill to the House, explained that what it proposed to do was to clear up the law where it was believed to be possible to do so, to deal with some hard cases which the experience of the last few years had brought to light, and, lastly, to remove some obstacles which had hitherto impeded the progress of land purchase legislation. He hoped, from the speech of the noble Marquess and that of Lord Ashbourne, he might conclude that there was a willingness on the part of the Government to give due weight to all reasonable Amendments. ["Hear, hear!"] The Amendments he had put down were designed to improve the Bill, to safeguard property, and to make the Bill a workable Bill. His proposals had been carefully checked by the best Irish expert opinion on the question of land valuation and the practical working of the fixing of judicial rents under the Act of 1881. Surely, in protecting the rights of property of the present landlords, they were equally protecting those of the future owners of land in Ireland—namely, the tenants who wish to buy that which, if Parliament destroyed the rights of property, would be perfectly useless to them or anyone else. ["Hear, hear!"] Lord Ashbourne said the present Bill did not harm the landlord, and that its object was to amend, as far as possible, the mistakes of the Act of 1881. That being so, he proposed to show that the Bill could be amended in such a manner as to do away with some injustices that generally fell on the landlord. The great blot in the Act of 1881 was that it did not define a fair rent or the manner in which the Commissioners were to arrive at a fair rent. In 1864 no less an authority than Dr. Longfield pointed out, in his notes on valuation as edited by Lord Dufferin in his Book of Irish Emigration and the Tenure of Land in Ireland, the great difficulty in fixing a rent. This was what he said:—

> "What is most generally proposed is, that every tenant should be entitled to a valuation of his farm, and to hold his land forever at a rent to be determined by such valuation. Nothing can be more unjust than to substitute a valuation for a contract, but the injustice is not manifest at first sight, for the words appear fair. Why, it is said, should any tenant be required to pay more than the fair value for his farm? But every one who has any experience knows that nothing can be more uncertain and undetermined than the valuation of land. It is not uncommon to see two valuators differing enormously in their estimates, and yet neither suffering in reputation as if he had made a discreditable mistake. In this case all the mistakes would be made in favour of the tenant. If any mistake were made against him the remedy would be in his own hands, as he would not take the land; but indeed no such mistake would be made, for there would be a constant leaning in favour of the tenant. It is certain that the value as fixed under any tenant-right measure would be less than half the fair rent which a solvent tenant would willingly pay for the land. It is obvious that as soon as the possession of land ceased to be a subject of contract by mutual agreement, the valuators would have no average market value to refer to, and would form their estimates on the wildest principles."

Was not this exactly what had taken place under the fixing of the rent under the Act of 1881? The Report of Minutes of Evidence of the Select Committee of the House of Lords, Paragraph 17 up to and including Paragraph 23, dealt very fully with the views arrived at by the Committee. At that period and at that time they were most anxious that fixed principles and rules should be laid down. In Paragraph 17 they say:—

> "There is much reason to conclude that in some of the Sub-commissions, where reductions have been largest, a simple arithmetical process

has been adopted for reducing the rents, by adding two, three or four varying estimates of the value together, and dividing by the number of such estimates. Examples of this will be found in the evidence of Smith, Baldwin, and Gray."

In paragraph 18 it was said :—

"The judicial settlement of rents under the Land Act was recommended to Parliament mainly to meet the cases, said to be comparatively rare and exceptional, in which land was over-rented or rack-rented in Ireland; but it would seem that in the arbitrary process of reduction which has been adopted, a landlord who has unduly raised the rent of his land, fares the best, for the reductions do not, as a rule, appear to be sensibly greater on estates high rented than on estates low rented.—(Atkinson, Bird, Belmore, Thompson, and Johnson.)"

Paragraph 20 stated :—

"Much dissatisfaction appears to be felt as to the manner in which these valuations take place.—(Gray and Smith.) The lands have frequently been visited at a time when, by reason of weather or floods, no proper inspection could be made.—(Bird and Sankey.) Formal evidence is given in Court, but much is or may be, afterwards said upon the ground in the way of statement and assertion."

In paragraph 21 they said :—

"Complaint is also made that there is no sufficient record showing what improvements have been proved to have been made by the tenant, and have been allowed for as affecting the rent. The Committee, in their first Report, expressed an opinion that some record should be made of such tenant's improvements as was proved in evidence; and they stated that they had heard with satisfaction that the Commissioners had, since the commencement of the Inquiry, adopted a rule for the purpose of meeting this complaint, and that the Sub-Commissioners would, henceforward, be required to specify the improvements made by the tenant. The Committee regret to find from the evidence of Mr. Baldwin that the form adopted by the Commissioners in order to meet this complaint has proved useless; and they must express again their strong opinion that the respective interests of landlord and tenant cannot be properly dealt with, and the settlement of judicial rents cannot be placed upon a satisfactory basis, unless there was a Report to that effect."

It was reported that Lord Salisbury, in 1883, said :—

"There is not a word about the gross barbarism of reducing existing rents and tearing up existing contracts."

"The noble and learned Lord Fitzgerald said that if it were any defects in the Irish Land Act and if there was a want of definition with respect to fair rent, and if the Sub-Commissioners had been led into error in consequence, this House ought to take the share of the blame because it did not attempt to guide them."

*Viscount Templetown*

The noble Marquess of Salisbury further said :—

"I think the noble and learned Lord forgets the circumstances under which the House accepted the Land Act. I remember them well. Personally I was anxious to make an effort to introduce a definition of fair rent into the Bill, but I was always strongly discouraged by the unanimous voice of those Irish landlords whom I consulted; they said the Government have promised us, they have assured us that this Bill will make no change in the great mass of rents in Ireland, that it will only interfere with those rack renters whom we do not desire to protect, and therefore we think that it would be very unfortunate if any words were introduced which would have the effect of distorting a measure which they assure us will leave us harmless."

And, his Lordship added, this is what the Cabinet, speaking through Mr. Bright's mouth said :—

"My view of the operations of that particular clause is that the rents of Ireland will in nine cases out of ten be fixed as they are now."

"What I wish to point out is that you cannot affix to the House of Lords any moral responsibility for having accepted this disastrous Act when they were led into a false and a deluded idea as to the effects of that Act by the assurance of the Government itself."

Since this speech was made by Lord Salisbury 12 years had passed, and he was now in the position of being able to carry out what he was then anxious to do. It had been found that the forecast of the then Liberal Government had been totally erroneous. Again, Mr. Morley, in 1894, in the Land Acts Committee, stated that he considered the Lords Committee was quite right in asking for definite and full information as regarded fixing rent. Going back over the last 30 years they saw the predictions of the best authorities as to what would happen verified, and in the experience of the past and present lay the best indications of how to amend the Land Act of 1881. He did not know that he could do better, having shown the general consensus of opinion since 1864 that full reasons should be supplied by Sub-Commissioners on fixing judicial rents, and in view of the fact that the Act was to amend the evils of the Act of 1881, and to deal with hard cases than to show them at least one evil under the Act, and give them one hard case that had occurred under the existing procedure. He would not trouble their Lordships with full details again of the three cases he gave them on the 17th ult., but only give one case shortly. It was the case of Brown, landlord, Hughes, tenant. The rent in 1861 was £13 4s. 6d. for a term of 12 years. It was raised to £14 4s. 6d. at the expiration of that term, with the tenant's consent. The rent fixed under the Act of 1881 was £11. It was revised this year and reduced to £6. This was for 9 acres of mixed land, on which there were no buildings and practically no improvements. This was the present position of the landlord, who was a poor man and whose father purchased 11 acres, of which this holding formed part, in 1858 for £216, subject to a yearly rent to Trinity College of £5 8s. 2d. For this outlay he had at present the two acres of land he described as boggy, and 11s. 2d. per annum, while the tenant, who paid nothing at all, had got 9 acres of land at a rent of £6, being £3 10s. under the Government valuation, and he could sell the same in the open market before the second fixing at say £10 an acre, equal to £90; and after this last fixing, say at £15 an acre, or say £135, and he was told that land in that neighbourhood had fetched as much as £23 an acre for tenant-right. Therefore, they saw that the landlord, who in this case sunk his savings, had lost by the process of the Act of 1881 practically all his capital, though his liability to pay the rent to Trinity College remains the same, while the tenant, who paid nothing, had acquired a sum which represented about 66 per cent. of the landlord's property, and this for no improvement or money outlay on his part. Was this what it was intended the Act of 1881 should do? If not, surely the Government would admit that such a state of things should be amended, and he failed to see that the Bill before them dealt with this. A question arose at this point: "Is it the Act or the Administration of the Act of 1881 that is accountable, and has it arisen from no defined principle being laid down, and that the Commissioners had no standard of value to go by and formed their estimates on the wildest principles?" On that occasion he would only deal with the procedure under the Act, while saying that if Parliament was a party to the transfer from one man to another, in this case of 66 per cent. of his property, it seemed to him that a clear case for compensation was made out, because "agricultural depression" could not be relied upon to account for the loss, seeing that the rent of the incoming tenant would, at 5 per cent. on outlay for purchase money, not for any improvements, or money outlay of the original tenant, bring the rent up to £13 10s—the original rent as mutually agreed upon in 1861, and proving thereby that "fair rent" and "free sale" were impossible concurrently, and proving also that under the Land Acts "fair rents," except for the sitting tenant, could not be fixed so long as free sale existed. It might be well to mention here that rents generally were not raised in Ireland during the years of high prices from 1865 to 1878, as shown by the schedules published by the Irish Commission, when increases of rent could only be proved in about seven per cent. of the cases adjudicated upon. How did the Bill rectify this glaring injustice? In every other arrangement where the Government have considered it necessary to take from one man for the benefit of the community, compensation had always been awarded, and Dr. Longfield, on page 308 of "Irish Emigration and the Tenure of Land in Ireland," in dealing with this question, following up the quotation as regarded valuation already alluded to, put the case in this way:—

> "While no class of persons would derive any advantage from the proposed change, it may be fairly asked why should the landlords be robbed of their clear rights for the benefit, not of any class, but of the individuals merely who happen at present to be the occupying tenants? If the landlords are to be robbed it should be done for the benefit of the community at large, and not of any individuals; least of all the individuals who alone would benefit by the proceeding."

And it might be asked, why should the landlord be robbed for a special individual? The noble and learned Lord asked the other night, where was the landlord affected by this Bill? He would ask, where were the existing injustices removed in this Bill? There was one point which took this question out of being merely a landlords' question. The reductions of rent in Ireland affected the taxpayers of this country in this way. If rents were to be reduced 30 per cent. for the next 15 years in Ireland, that meant, at £3,000,000 a year, that £45,000,000 of taxable property was to be wiped out. Had not the taxpayers of the United Kingdom a right to an account of where it was gone? The value of the Amendments which he had the honour to propose depended absolutely upon the schedule being so framed and abided by in all fixing of rents that the rent should not either be reduced or increased in respect of anything which did not appear in the schedule. He asked if, under the Land Act of 1881, their property was liable to be taken from them, and who could dispute that that was the case, had they not even the right left to them to ask for an account? He felt so strongly on this point as a matter of bare justice that he hoped Her Majesty's Government might see their way to grant the Amendments, so that any appeal to their Lordships' sense in the matter might be unnecessary.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said he had considerable sympathy with the object the noble Lord had in putting down his Amendments. The noble Lord desired to obtain from the Court of the Land Commission a fuller and more detailed record of the method by which it arrived at its conclusions. In the Bill the Government had attempted to achieve something in this direction. For instance, the first clause contained directions to the Court entirely different from any which it had yet received, directions which compelled the Court to disclose a large number of the particulars by which it was guided in arriving at its decisions. But the noble Lord desired to go a great deal further. He wished the Court to be directed to mark the different classes of land upon a map, and to assign to the different areas, according to their class, the rent which the Court desired to put upon them. In another Amendment the noble Lord desired that what was known as the pink paper, which was now issued by a rule of the Commissioners' Court, should be embodied in the Act of Parliament, and made part of the record. The Government had anxiously considered these proposals, and the conclusion at which they were constrained to arrive was that, if they asked for all of these things, they would absolutely overburden the Court of the Land Commission with minute work of a kind which it would not be able to undertake, unless at a very great cost of time and trouble, and by means of a very large and expensive addition to the staff of the Commission. They were strongly dissuaded from imposing on the Court such minute duties as those proposed. If in other ways they were able to meet the wishes of the noble Lord, and to supply the parties engaged in the proceedings with even fuller information than that which would be given to them under the Bill, they would gladly consider proposals to that effect. It seemed to him perfectly reasonable that the schedule to which the noble Lord referred, and the maps which the Sub-Commissioners already filled up on the occasions when they inspected the holdings should be made a part of the record and should be accessible to the parties. It might even be arranged that anyone desiring a copy of those documents should be allowed to obtain it on payment of a moderate fee; but he confessed he did not see his way on behalf of the Government to accept the proposal of the noble Lord as it stood on the Paper.

LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE said there was a fault at the root of the whole valuation. On the great majority of estates with small holdings, say, of 10 acres, there were 10 fields. It was impossible to expect anyone to go through all the valuations.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said he heard with regret the reply of the noble Marquess. The request of his noble Friend was one of a very simple and ordinary character. ["Hear, hear!"] On the Second Reading of the Bill he stated, and he repeated now, that it was not just to the landowning classes that there should be some elaborate statement made by the Sub-Commissioners giving their reasons for the extraordinary reductions which had recently taken place. [*Cheers.*] It, perhaps, might be said by the Sub-Commissioners that those great reductions had been granted because there had been a great decrease in certain products on which the existence of the farms depended. If that be the case let them know it. The Irish landlords had not the slightest objection to granting reductions as large as English landlords had granted where those reductions were necessary—["Hear, hear!"]—but what they did complain of was that reductions were forced upon them which they maintained were unnecessary, and for which no reason whatever was given. [*Cheers.*] They asked for no concession at the hands of the Government, but simply for such information as could not be honestly and fairly denied. The noble Marquess could not, he told them, accede to the request, because he considered he would overburden the Sub-Commissioners with work. They could not accept that as an explanation. ["Hear, hear!"] Were the land-owning classes of Ireland to be ruined in order that the Sub-Commissoners might not be overworked? [*Cheers.*] The reductions had been enormous in certain parts of Ireland. The other day he ventured to prove that agriculture was not depressed in Ireland as it was in England. He proved that, although there was a slight decrease in certain products on certain farms in certain parts of Ireland there was an increase in other products. He maintained that the decrease of the products to which he alluded was nothing like the decrease that had taken place in the products in certain parts of England, and yet the compulsory reductions, for which no reason whatever was given by the Sub-Commissioners in Ireland were as large as the reductions in England. The average rent per acre on his property was not more that 16s. The farms were all worked on the five-course system, and therefore on a 50-acre farm the white crops would be 20 acres, green crops 10 acres, hay crop 10 acres, and the grass crop 10 acres. For a 50-acre farm the tenant paid a rent of £40, and the gross earnings would be £430, therefore the ratio of the rent was less than one-tenth of the whole earnings of the farm. Why should the whole of the reduction be placed on the one-tenth? He maintained that there was not that depression in Ireland which there had been in England, and no one would say that in a case of this kind the tenant was over-rented. If a farm did become vacant there was enormous competition to get it, and the tenant-right paid was higher than it had been for years past. ["Hear, hear!"] Why did he weary them with these details? If a tenant of his took him into Court—and he was happy to say that had not occurred—he maintained that he had a right to ask the Sub-Commissioners to tell him why he reduced the rent. [*Cheers.*] What would anyone say if a tradesman sent in an account without giving the items? Of course payment would be refused absolutely. Why should a landlord's rent be reduced without giving him the items? This condition of prosperity was not confined to Ulster. Recently a farm in Tipperary, of 30 acres, at £26 per annum, was sold for the enormous sum of £620. Did that look like deterioration? Would the landlord in Essex or Lincolnshire not gladly accept 23 years' purchase? They were told that these particulars could not be supplied because the Sub-Commissioners were overburdened, but this was an excuse they could not accept. He regarded this clause, next to purchase, as the keystone of the Bill. ["Hear, hear!"] They had a right to know why these reductions were made, because they maintained that the condition of Ireland did not require them. If the condition of Ireland was agriculturally as serious as some parts of England they would not say a word, for Irish landlords, who had been always generous in the past, would be generous in the future. He hoped his noble Friend would divide the Committee, and that their Lordships would almost unanimously follow him into the Lobby. ["Hear, hear!"]

Lord MACNAGHTEN quoted the evidence of Mr. Greer, Sub-Commissioner, who was appointed in 1881, and who at Mr. Morley's Committee, in reply to Mr. T. W. Russell, said he could not see why particulars should not be given in the pink paper of the amount allowed for improvements. Mr. Greer saw no objection to the giving of every information to both landlord and tenant. ["Hear, hear!"]

The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND (Lord Ashbourne) said that as time progressed after the Act of 1881 it was found just and reasonable to give particulars, and now the pink paper gave an enormous amount of information. His noble Friend had quoted Mr. Greer, who had said that there was no objection to the giving of information, he thought, as to the particular item of improvements.

LORD MACNAGHTEN: No, no; every information for the use of the landlord and tenant. The special question related only to improvements. [*Cheers.*]

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said that the particular information referred to by Mr. Greer related to improvements; but, in addition to that, there was a great mass of information given in the pink paper. No Bill, however, could suggest an exhaustive statement, and the Amendment would render necessary a great enlargement of the staff and cause, it might be, great delay. It was not desirable to increase the number of Sub-Commissioners more than was absolutely necessary. With every sympathy with giving information, and with every desire to make the evidence accessible, he could not but say that if the Amendment were pressed it would lead, not only to expense, but to serious delay in investigation and in giving decisions, and would result, not in a breakdown of the machinery, but in great and serious complications in its working.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH said that as an English Peer he was not dependent on Irish rents, but he thought the proposal of the noble Viscount a most reasonable one. It was quite indefensible, when they were depriving people of any right of appeal on questions of value in regard to their property, to enter into the question of whether this would add a little more expense or cause a little more delay. That might be called a pettifogging objection. It was not contended that it was impossible to form a fair and strict schedule, nor had they to consider whether a few more Sub-Commissioners might be created or not. The real difficulty was that they had no security that Sub-Commissioners might not be appointed in the future by a Government which might take a very extreme view of these questions, and that they might practically, by a silent revolution, deprive the landlords of the whole of their property. [*Cheers.*] There could be no objection to both parties knowing distinctly what the Sub-Commissioners took into account in fixing a fair rent. He had heard that some of the Sub-Commissioners were actually allowing, as a set-off against the rent, the value of the tenant-right. They had a strong case in asking for fair and complete details.

THE EARL OF MAYO said it had been objected that this proposal would increase the number of Sub-Commissioners and cause delay, but there was not the least difficulty in getting any amount of Sub-Commissioners in Ireland. The pink schedule gave the classes of land only, and they wanted the value put opposite.

*THE EARL OF WINCHILSEA said the reasons given by the noble Lords below were unsatisfactory and inadequate. They could only conclude that the real ground on which they refused this request was because they had no reasons to give. The landlords of Ireland, until they were furnished with the reasons they asked for, would remain, he thought, under the impression that the way in which the Commissioners arrived at their decisions was simply by a process of the wildest guesses.

LORD MONTEAGLE said he was a supporter of this Bill, but he did not think the Government had made out a sufficiently strong case on this particular point. He could understand that there was a great deal to be said for the old system of the Act of 1881, but if they once departed from that, and asked the Sub-Commissioners to give reasons, surely those reasons should be as full and accurate as possible. The arguments as regarded expense and delay did not seem to him to be a sufficient answer.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE did not think it was fair to charge them with having met the suggestion of noble Lords behind with anything like a blank *non possumus.* They had done nothing of the kind. In the first place, in the Bill itself they had provided that the Court should give a great deal of that information which noble Lords were so anxious to obtain. Besides this there was the pink paper, which was a very full document, and he was informed that the parties in cases of this kind could already obtain access to the map used by the Sub-Commissioners and to the pink paper on payment of a shilling. They had objected to imposing as an obligation on the Sub-Commissioners the duty of giving to both parties this mass of minute information, not because they were afraid of overworking them, but because it would be necessary in that case to largely increase the number of these officials. The noble Lords said they could get any number of Sub-Commissioners, but was he sure that they would all be men whom he would like to employ to fix fair rents on his property? He was assured that the changes which they were now making in the Bill would already involve a very considerable increase in the number of the Sub-Commissioners, and, beyond all question, if the proposal were adopted in its entirety, they would have to make a further increase. That was the reason why they regarded the proposal with suspicion.

*VISCOUNT POWERSCOURT said they knew what the Sub-Commissioners were under the former Act, and that was why they were so anxious in regard to this question.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said the Government were willing to give the House a great deal of the information they sought; why, then, should they not give them the whole of that information? He thought their demand was a very reasonable one. Apparently this was a question of £ s. d., but the Government did not consider the question of £ s. d. with regard to the reductions of the landlords' rents. They only asked for absolute and full particulars with regard to the fixing and reduction of rents, and they thought they ought to have them at the hands of the present Government.

THE EARL OF MAYO said these particulars were in the books of the Sub-Commissioners.

The House divided:—

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Rowton, L.
Sackville, L.
Saye and Sele, L.
Stanmore, L.
Thring, L.
Tredegar, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Wantage, L.
Welby, L.
Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L.

Amendment agreed to.

*Viscount TEMPLETOWN moved, in paragraph *(a)*, Sub-section (1), after the word "all," to insert the words "buildings and."

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE said that he would like to ask the noble Lord whether he thought it worth while to press the Amendment, which the Government certainly could not accept. The word "improvements" in the Bill already included "buildings." If the word "buildings" were used in the way proposed by the Amendment it might lead to confusion as to what was included in the word "improvements."

Viscount TEMPLETOWN said that after the explanation of the noble Marquess he did not wish to press his Amendment any further.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord MONTEAGLE, in whose name Amendments stood upon the Paper, after the word "improvements," in the same paragraph, t insert the word "made," and after th word "thereon," to insert the word "before the passing of this Act," sai that these Amendments were merel consequential on his first Amendment and therefore he would not move them.

*Viscount TEMPLETOWN movec in paragraph (*a*), Sub-section (1), t insert, after the word "landlord," th words—

> "the fair rent so declared shall be the sur which in the opinion of the Court a solven tenant would pay, one year with another, durin a statutory term, for the same holding if th holding were in the landlord's hands, and i proper condition."

*The Marquess of LANSDOWN said he was afraid that this was a Amendment that he could not possibl accept. He believed that it was almos universally admitted by Irish landlord and their friends that a fair rent wa something less than the value of th farm would be if it were in the hands o the landlord. It was the differenc between the fair rent and the competition rent which left room for the occupation interest of the tenant. If th Amendment were accepted, it woul vitally alter the whole foundation upo which the fixing of a fair rent was t proceed.

*Viscount TEMPLETOWN aske whether the noble Marquess could consent to omit altogether the word "fair" in application to rent?

*The Marquess of LANSDOWN said that he could not adopt the suggestion of the noble Lord, which woul render it necessary to make many alterations in the Bill.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord CASTLETOWN moved, i paragraph (*b*), Sub-section (1), after th word "condition," to insert the word "as to cultivation, deterioration, o otherwise." His object in moving th Amendment was to make clear an define the meaning of the word "condition," and of helping good husbandry It would be a great advantage if th Sub-Commissioners, when they cam upon a farm, were empowered to determine whether it had been well cultivated or had purposely been allowed t deteriorate in order that a low rent might be fixed. He was sorry to say that in some cases that had come to his knowledge the land had been carefully prepared for the visit of the Sub-Commissioner. In one case on his own estate a tenant had had the audacity to inform his agent, in reply to his remonstrance as to the condition of the farm, that the Sub-Commissioner was coming to fix a fair rent, and that he was preparing the land for his visit. In another case a farm had been meadowed for nine years on the understanding that a fair rent would be fixed. The unfortunate landlord purchased the tenant-right from the tenant at a high figure, because it was contiguous to his demesne, and had to lay out a lot of money in improving the place. In another case a curious system of deterioration was carried out. A tenant allowed a grass farm of 100 acres to become overrun with rabbits, and it became valueless. He then went into Court, and when the Sub-Commissioners saw the farm they brought down the rent considerably; but the moment the fair rent was fixed the tenant killed off all the rabbits. [*Laughter.*] He thought his Amendment, if accepted, would tend to stimulate good husbandry.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said that the intention of the sub-section was that the Court should report on the condition of the holding in regard to its treatment by the tenant. But if the noble Lord thought the sub-section would be improved by his Amendment, the Government had no objection to its acceptance.

Amendment agreed to.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE moved, in Paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "by the tenant," and after the words "or partly by" to insert the words "the tenant."

Amendment agreed to.

*VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN moved, in Paragraph (*i*), Sub-section (1), after the word "character" to insert the word "cost." The paragraph moved would then read:—

"(*i*) the nature, character, cost and present capital value thereof, and the increased letting value due thereto."

The object of the Amendment was to obtain a little further information.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE thought the Amendment would be unworkable. It might be impossible to ascertain by any means, or from anybody, what the original cost of improvements was in many cases.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN moved in Paragraph (*f*) Sub-section (1), after the word "may" to insert the words "have been taken into account in fixing the fair rent thereof, or as may."

Amendment agreed to.

*VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN moved, in Paragraph (*f*), Sub-section (1), to insert after the word "prescribed"—

"from time to time, including all such particulars as are set forth in the form in the Second schedule to this Act (so far as such particulars are not inconsistent with the other provisions of this section), such form being a copy of the form (commonly known as the 'Pink Schedule') which the Assistant Commissioners have for some time previous to the passing of this Act been required by the Land Commission to fill up when fixing the fair rent of a holding."

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said the point involved in this Amendment had already been discussed at considerable length on the previous Amendment of the noble Lord. The Government remained of the same opinion, but, if the noble Lord persisted with the Amendment, they would not go to a Division.

Amendment agreed to.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE moved, in Sub-section (3), after the words "Land Law Acts," to insert the words, "as amended by this Act."

Amendment agreed to.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE moved, in Sub-section (4), after the words "Land Law Acts," to insert the words, "as amended by this Act."

Amendment agreed to.

*LORD INCHIQUIN moved, after Sub-section (7), to insert the following new sub-section:—

"(8) No deduction shall be made from the fair rent named in this section by reason of the mere right of occupation vested in the tenant."

The object of the Amendment was to prevent Sub-Commissioners taking into account the goodwill that might be created on the farm. The reductions which had been made in the rent by the Sub-Commissioners, especially in cases which had recently come into Court, could only be accounted for by supposing that the goodwill was taken into account by the Sub-Commissioners. This difficulty was foreseen during the discussions on the Act of 1881, but Mr. Gladstone declared in the House of Commons :—

> "this was an idea which the Government had always emphatically denied—namely, that the value of the tenant-right in the holding was to be deducted from the rent otherwise due to the landlord."

In spite of that declaration, the tenant's interest was taken into account in the fixing of the fair rent. A Sub-Commissioner was asked before the Morley Committee whether, in fixing a fair rent, there was any deduction made for the tenant's interest? "Oh, yes," he replied, "it affects the amount of the fair rent materially;" and he went on to say :—

> "by most Sub-Commissioners in fixing rent, whether inside or outside Ulster, that right is recognised generally."

Words should be inserted in the Bill to make it clear that the tenant's interest was not to be taken into account. Otherwise, suppose a fair rent fixed on a holding was £100 a year and a tenant came in having paid £500, and the reduction on account of the tenant's right was £25, that would bring his rent down to £75. It was clear that if, during the judicial term, or at the end of it, some other tenant were to buy from him and give another £500, the Commissioners would have to take into account the question of £1,000 having been paid; and no less than £50 would be deducted from the landlord's rent. Thereby he would only receive £50 instead of the fair rent of £100. This appeared to be simply a question of bringing about, by degrees—sometimes slow, sometimes rapid—the "prairie value" of which they heard so much. It could not possibly go on without it. So he thought he had just reason for asking the House to insert words which would make it clear that the occupation interest or tenant-right should not be taken into consideration in fixing the fair rent.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said he believed the point the noble Lord wished to guard against was really guarded against already. The fair rent, as he had before observed, was notoriously something less than the full competitive or market rent, and it was the difference between these two rents which left room for the occupation interest of the tenant. The matter rested not only upon the practice of the Courts and the *obiter dicta* of legal authorities, but upon more solid ground still, because Section 8 of the Land Act of 1881—a section which was inserted in that House—seemed to him to meet the point raised by the noble Lord. "The amount of money or money's worth that may have been paid or given for the tenancy of any holding by the tenant or his predecessors in title shall not of itself, apart from other considerations, be deemed to be ground for reducing or increasing the rent of the holding." With those words in the Statute-book it was superfluous to amend the Bill by introducing what was, after all, a very controversial and puzzling point in the terms the noble Lord had proposed.

LORD MACNAGHTEN asked how the point could be controversial and puzzling, when Lord Lansdowne said the purpose of the Amendment was safeguarded in other Acts. He agreed that it was so safeguarded, but that was no objection to inserting in this Act plain words which everyone could understand. They had it on evidence that some of the Sub-Commissioners had done the very thing the noble Lord said they ought not to do. Unless it were provided against in the Bill, they would fall into the same lamentable error again. ["Hear!"]

*LORD INCHIQUIN said he could not see the force of the argument that the tenant-right was made up of the difference between the letting value of land in the landlord's and tenant's hands. All through the south of Ireland there was no such thing as tenant-right before the Act of 1881, which gave the right. On his own estate the claim of tenant-right was guarded against. To say that the landlord should not get fair rent because there was some other right intervening was quite wrong. The landlord claimed fair rent irrespective of what was given by the tenant. The other day on his estate as much as 20 years' purchase was given for tenant-right. Enormous sums had been given for it, and if it was to be considered by the Sub-Commissioners it was clear how the large reductions of rent came about. The other day on his estate a large farm came up for revision. A judicial rent had already been fixed. The farm was originally valued at £500 a year. This was reduced to £445 in 1881. Although no improvement had been made by the tenant the rent had recently been reduced another £100, or 23 or 24 per cent. In both cases there would be an appeal.

VISCOUNT MIDLETON agreed with the noble Lord who had just spoken. He himself knew cases in which tenant-right had not been allowed in any circumstances. The Sub-Commissioners fixed £300 as the value of the tenant-right of a man who had only been in occupation four years, who paid nothing to enter on that portion of his holding, had done nothing beyond the ordinary husbandry, who had not drained or who fenced the land, but had simply the right of occupancy which accrued to him three years before the Act of 1881 was passed, and for the fact that he was actually on the land the Sub-Commissioners fixed £300—six years' rent at £50—as the value of the tenant-right, although they were well aware that on that particular estate tenant-right had never before been allowed or asked for.

Amendment agreed to.

*LORD ARDILAUN moved, in Sub-section (8), to insert the word "one" after "Sub-sections." He explained that Sub-section 5 of the Land Act of 1870 changed the presumption with regard to improvements in favour of the tenant, excepting six cases, the first of which alone he proposed to retain—when such an improvement had been made previous to the time at which the holding in reference to which the claim was made was conveyed on actual sale to the landlord or those through whom he derived his title.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said the Amendment was a sound one, but it would require further amendment. In line 6, after "1870," he would propose to insert the words "and Sub-section (1) of the same section in the case of sales after the passing of the Landlord and Tenant Act," 1870.

Amendment agreed to—

And words "and Sub-section (1) of the same section in the case of sales after the passing of the Act" of 1870, inserted.

Both Amendments agreed to; Clause 1, as amended, ordered to stand.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN moved the insertion of the following clause after Clause 1:—

2.—(1.) At any time, on an application by the tenant to have a fair rent fixed, after the required particulars have been ascertained and recorded in accordance with Section one, the landlord and tenant may agree together for the purchase by the landlord of the improvements made wholly or partly by or at the cost of the tenant, and the Land Commission shall, immediately on proof that the agreed price has been paid to the tenant, make a vesting order vesting the said improvements in the landlord, and from the date of such vesting order the fair rent of the holding shall be the rent recorded in the schedule under Section one, Sub-section one, clause (*a*).

(2.) The Land Commission shall, on the application of the landlord for the purpose of carrying out such purchase as aforesaid, advance and pay to the tenant such agreed price, not exceeding in amount the capital value of the said improvements, after deducting the extent (if any) to which the landlord has paid or compensated the tenant in respect of such improvements, as recorded in accordance with Section one, and the amount so advanced shall be a debt due from the landlord and shall be a first charge on the holding.

(3.) Such advance shall be repaid to the Land Commission by an annuity calculated in the same way as a purchase annuity under the Land Purchase Acts as amended by this Act, and the provisions of the said Acts as amended by this Act shall so far as they are applicable apply as if a purchase under this section were a purchase under the said Acts.

(4.) The amount of such annuity shall be paid to the Land Commission half-yearly by the tenant and shall be deducted by him from the amount of his rent due to the landlord.

(5.) All advances made by the Land Commission under this section shall be made from the surplus of the Irish Church Fund.

The noble Lord said the object of the clause was to endeavour to hasten that happy time when Ireland would be relieved from the system of no ownership or dual ownership which now oppressed her. In his opinion that system had entirely paralysed the industry and effort of both landlord and tenant and discouraged them from improvements of the soil, and he thought their Lordships would agree with him that the sooner they returned to a sounder system of tenure the better for Ireland. The natural and the best way by which that could be accomplished was by encouraging occupiers to buy holdings, but up to the present, occupying tenants had not shown any very vehement desire to acquire the freehold of their holdings. Purchase had been, comparatively speaking, a failure, and he could see no reason in logic or common sense why the assistance of the State in the matter of purchase should be confined to only one of the parties. It was, in his opinion, best that the tenant should buy. But they must have regard to the condition the country might be in when the present occupiers had become owners, and when, of course, as must inevitably happen, the land would begin to accumulate in the hands of the comparatively few again, and another landlord class must arise. Whether it would be for the benefit of the country or not, he did not intend to prophecy. Judging by past experience, he thought it must be admitted that the class of landlords who were likely to arise from occupiers would not be more beneficial to the country than the class of men who had hitherto been owners of the soil. In a matter of this kind they must look to the distant future. He believed that in the interest of the country it was desirable, and it was the duty of any Government to take every legitimate and proper means to retain as many as possible of the present landlord class of Ireland in that country. He believed it would be absolutely essential for the welfare of the country whenever self-government — in the sense they understood it in England—was applied to Ireland, and as purchase extended and the land accumulated, that, at any rate, a considerable number of the present landlords and their descendants should remain in the country. Why, under these circumstances, should the Bill not give equal facility to the landlords to buy the tenant's improvements that it gave to the tenant to buy the landlord's interest? Surely it would be to the advantage of the tenant. At present, if the tenants required capital they could only obtain it by borrowing at a high rate of interest on their security, or by selling their interest and leaving the country. He did not want them to be obliged to sell and leave the country, and he did not want them to embarrass themselves by borrowing money at a ruinous rate of interest. If this clause were accepted, if a tenant did not want to buy the landlord's interest and did not want to sell his own interest and go, it was possible he might agree with the landlord that the latter might buy up his (the tenant's) improvements, by which the tenant would obtain ready money, which would be useful to him in stocking his land and in the ordinary business of husbandry. It would in that way benefit the tenant. It would also benefit the landlord to the extent that it would relieve him from the incubus of the present system of no-ownership that obtained in Ireland. Practically, the whole interest would be his; it would be entirely so after the instalments were paid, and that would be greatly to his advantage and benefit. He did not pretend to believe that if the clause were accepted it would be largely operative; it would be adopted, perhaps, only in the case of estates that were managed and administered after the English fashion and custom. But, at any rate, it would deprive the tenant of nothing, it would leave all his present privileges and advantages intact; it would finance him if he required capital for the management of his holding, and, what was more important, it would do something definite towards extricating the country from the intolerable mess into which it had been plunged by attempting to institute a system of tenure not founded on logic, common sense, or sound views of political economy. He had stated that the advances to be made by the Land Commission should be made from the surplus of the Irish Church Fund. He had not the slightest idea whether there was any surplus. But obviously this was a mere pious fraud, and he had simply followed the precedent set in the Act of 1887. Of course, the proper words, as regarded the money, would be inserted by the other House. His object was that, whatever money was available for the purpose of purchase should be available for enabling the landlord to acquire the tenant's improvements in the same way as it was available to the tenant to buy up the landlord's interest. He begged to move the clause.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE said the noble Lord had presented his scheme in a very attractive mode, and no doubt many of their Lordships would agree with him in wishing they could accelerate the time when the present confusion of ownership of Irish land should have ceased to exist. He was not quite sure whether this proposal would affect that object, because the tenant would still be left with a saleable interest in his holding, or, in other words, there would still be a dual ownership of land. He did not, however, desire to argue the clause upon its merits, but would merely put it to the noble Lord whether it was desirable to introduce this proposal, which was an entirely novel one, into the Bill at this stage of the Session? It was a proposal to advance money, not as it was now advanced, for the purchase of the land out and out, but for the purchase of a comparatively limited interest in the land—namely, the interest represented by the improvements made by the tenant. For that purpose the noble Lord depended upon the Irish Church Fund, but he had himself told them, with great candour, that the financial basis of his scheme was something like a "pious fraud." He was afraid there would be little chance of carrying so intricate a proposal to a successful issue, and he hoped the noble Lord would be content with having raised the matter in Parliament.

The Earl of DUNRAVEN would not press his Amendment after what the noble Marquess had said. At the same time he ventured to express the hope that when this question had to be considered by Parliament again—as it infallibly would have to be before very long—whatever Government might then be in power would very seriously consider whether it was not advisable to assist the landlord to buy up the tenants' improvements in the same way that they assisted the tenants to buy the landlords' interest, in order that they might approach as near as possible to real ownership at the earliest possible moment.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

*Lord INCHIQUIN moved to insert the following clause after Clause 1:—

"Any enactment prohibiting the resumption of a holding or part of a holding until the expiration of the first statutory term in a tenancy shall apply only where the term began before the commencement of this Act."

This clause, he said, was in the Bill in the House of Commons, but for some reason was withdrawn by the Government. He considered the clause was an important one and ought not to be allowed to drop. Under the Land Act of 1881, a special provision was made that, under certain circumstances and for certain purposes, the landlord should, by applying to the Land Commission, be allowed to resume possession of a holding. That gave the landlord the right to apply in certain circumstances. He might point out the importance of this right, as for instance the resumption of the land for the purposes of planting, or for the purpose of a water scheme required for some town or for any purposes of that kind, where it might be of the greatest importance that the land should be able to be resumed. When the Act of 1881 was in the House, a special clause was put in afterwards, he believed in the House of Commons, under which it was provided that for the first term of 15 years the landlord should not have the right which was given to him under the Act of 1881, and that therefore he could not resume during the first 15 years under any circumstances for any purpose, the land in the way the Act proposed to give him, but at the end of 15 years he could do so. It would be quite clear that in many cases where the tenant had not taken out a judicial lease, he might bar the landlord completely from making any improvements at once by asking the Court to grant him a judicial lease. The object of his Amendment was simply to prevent that and to make it clear that what Parliament really meant was that during the first term of 15 years this power should not be exercised for certain reasons which were given at the time. His proposition was simply that the land could be resumed for those special purposes and no more, and he thought their Lordships would agree, on looking over the special purposes for which this power was given, that they were not unreasonable and that it was a power which should still be given.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said the noble Lord was correct in saying that this clause, or one virtually identical with it, was in the Bill when it was first introduced in the House of Commons. It was struck out because the Government held that it was mainly justified in connection with certain proposals which they had made in reference to town parks, and that this machinery for the resumption of land was particularly useful in the case of lands of that description. But he was bound to say that he thought there was a good deal to be said in favour of the clause on its merits, and they accepted the Amendment of the noble Lord. [*Cheers.*]

Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*THE EARL OF WINCHILSEA moved to insert the following clause:—

> "2. 'Where the Court have once fixed a fair rent for a holding, no further revision of rent shall take place at the end of the first or any subsequent judicial term except in relation to—
>
> "(*a*) A rise or fall, if any, in the price of produce proper to be grown on the holding (due allowance being made for a rise or fall, if any, in the cost of production); and
>
> "(*b*) Any improvement which the tenant proves—
>
> "(1) He has executed without compensation before the commencement of the first statutory term; and
>
> "(2) Has not already been taken into account in fixing a fair rent.
>
> "And in the event of a revision being made, the Court shall send by post to each party a certified statement showing how the fair rent has been arrived at."

He would address himself first to the appeal of the noble Marquess in charge of the Bill as to whether it would be possible to defer the consideration of this Clause to another stage of the Bill. He need not say that he had considered that appeal very carefully and in consultation with his noble Friends behind him. He was very glad to hear that the Government considered the Amendment one of great importance, and that they were not disposed to oppose a *non possumus* to it. But many of his noble Friends, who also attached very great importance to the clause, and who were anxious to see it at the earliest possible moment, take its place in the Bill, were of opinion that it would be a very unfortunate thing to defer the consideration of an important Amendment like that to the Report Stage, especially at the time of the Session at which they had arrived. Of course, if the Government could give him any pledge that they would accept the principle of the clause, he should not be inclined to press the matter now, but he did not understand that the Government was in a position at the present moment to give any such definite pledge, In that case he thought it would be better to take the discussion now. The Government said, and it was quite true, that they had had very little time to consider this clause, but he thought the Debate which would probably follow could not fail to be of service to the Government in making up their minds as to whether they would accept it. He should not have ventured to propose an Amendment of so much gravity as this had it not been at the request of a considerable body of his noble Friends behind him, and from the knowledge that it was supported by many of those who had the best reasons for being well-acquainted with all matters concerning land valuation in Ireland. On the Second Reading of the Bill he ventured to point out what was, in his opinion, an extremely grave omission, and that was that the Bill contained nothing to correct a defect in the Act of 1881, which was that no principle whatever was laid down to guide the Sub-Commissioners in arriving at their decisions in reducing rents. Although it was perfectly true, as was said by the noble and learned Lord below him, that it was the duty of the Government loyally to administer the existing law, surely it was equally the duty of the Administration to propose Amendments to that law when it was found to work unjustly, more especially in a Bill which was introduced to Parliament with the very object, as he understood, of amending defects in preceding legislation on this very point. He thought the question was whether the Act of 1881 really did require amending in this one particular. In the first place he thought it was scarcely likely that a body of men such as the Sub-Commissioners, even if they were of very much higher knowledge and standing than they were, could safely be entrusted with these enormous powers for any length of time without any principles being laid down whatever to guide them. He might point out that in the case of Griffiths' Valuation the most careful principles were laid down for the guidance of the valuations, and the principles laid down were always with a view to price. But they were not left to theory in this matter, because the actual reductions of rent which had taken place at the beginning of the second statutory term, had been from 30 to 40 and even more per cent., and there had been no attempt whatever that he had seen, either in the public press or in the House, to justify those reductions on any principle whatever. When his noble Friend near him raised the point, as he did, he thought on the 19th of July, by a question addressed to the Government as to whether they could inform him on what principle those reductions were made, the answer of the Government was that those persons held judicial positions and that the Executive could not interfere with them. That, he thought, was the view taken by the noble and learned Lord immediately below him (the Lord Chancellor), but he also invited his noble Friend, if he did not like the law, to amend it. It was precisely that invitation of which they were now taking advantage. He thought that, in the existing state of the law, it was no wonder that the landlords felt that, unless some control could be imposed upon the Sub-Commissioners, they would be able, under their existing powers, to take away the greater part, if not the whole, of the residue of their property. The noble Marquess (Lansdowne) was reduced to saying, when he introduced the Bill, that he understood there was a rule of thumb by which the Sub-Commissioners decided the cases. The fate of unsuccessful combatants in the Colisseum was also decided by rule of thumb, but in this case the landlords were placed in this position;—that the thumb was always turned down. They were never treated to a rise in rents. It was always assumed that a revision of rents necessarily meant a reduction of rents. The Act of 1881 was introduced to meet a special and exceptional set of cases. A special and exceptional tribunal was set up, armed with special and exceptional powers, and really what they were authorised and instituted for amounted to something like a revolution in the tenure of land in Ireland. A revolution might be a necessity—now and then it was—but it did not follow that it was either expedient, or right, or possible to have a revolution every fifteen years. But that was precisely the position in which they were placed if the powers of the Sub Commissioners were not checked, but were suffered to go on as they were left under the Act of 1881. He thought the Legislature did not contemplate that the powers conferred upon the Sub-Commissioners originally under the Act of 1881 should be exercised to the full every fifteen years, or that they should be empowered every fifteen years to go into the whole set of circumstances which was brought before them in 1881. He admitted that in 1881 it would have been extremely difficult to lay down any principles for the guidance of the Commissioners. The circumstances were exceptional, and they gave the Commissioners powers and trusted to them to exercise them honestly. But that was a very different thing to prolonging and making permanent powers of that kind without any principle to guide the people who exercised them. He was surprised to hear the noble Marquess say it would be impossible to take the rents, as fixed by the Land Court in 1881, as constituting a fair rent for the first statutory term. They were fairly entitled to assume that the Sub-Commissioners of that day did their duty as they were commanded to do by the Legislature—that they took into account all the exceptional circumstances referred to them, and that the rent at which they arrived was a fair rent. It was perfectly impossible to suppose that questions such as climate, aspect, soil, proximity to markets, roads, water supply, could be reconsidered every 15 years. The rent was reduced once for all in consideration of those circumstances, and he thought that on future occasions they must take it those circumstances remained very much as they were. Therefore, they could and ought now to narrow very considerably the issue which was originally entrusted to the Commissioners. It was evident to him that there was only one circumstance which ought to be regarded in subsequent revisions—if they took the first revision as having been fairly made—and that was an altered ability of the tenant to pay the rent, owing to circumstances out of his own control. On what must that altered ability depend? It must depend on the rise or fall, if any, in the price of produce grown on the holding, and on the rise or fall, if any, in the cost of production. Now, what would be the advantages which would follow from the application of the simple principle recommended in his Amendment? In the first place, they would get rid once and for all of all those complications they had been discussing under Clause 1, because they would not arise under any second or subsequent alteration of rent; and, in the second place, they would get a solid basis on which the Commissioners could arrive at their decisions, and on which the landowners and tenants, if agreed, could appeal against them. In addition, they would get a self-acting principle, in virtue of which he believed the landlord and tenant would be able to settle their own rents between themselves without allowing the Sub-Commissioners to go on to the land again, and without the expense of again appealing to the Court. The advantages to the landlord were obvious, because he would be secure against any arbitrary alteration of the rent, and he would even have the chance, which at present he was practically debarred from, of an increase in the rent, supposing a rise in prices occurred which would justify such an increase. But it was when they came to regard the advantages which would accrue to the tenant that he thought the case was more remarkable still. ["Hear, hear!"] A fair reduction of rent in Ireland benefited both the sitting and the incoming tenant. By a fair reduction he meant a reduction really made on the decreased ability of the tenant to pay the rent. Such a reduction as that did not add to the value of the tenant-right, but an unfair or arbitrary reduction of rent was really given at the expense of every succeeding tenant. Suppose a man who paid a rent of £10, and was able to sell his tenant-right for £200, had a visit from the Sub-Commissioner who reduced his rent from £10 to £5. That would immediately add £100 to the value of the tenant-right, and the incoming tenant, who had to pay the extra £100, would, he was assured, in nine cases out of ten, have to borrow the £100 at a very exorbitant interest. He would obtain, it was true, a reduction of £5, but he would have to pay at least £10 a year for the loan. Furthermore, this principle, if adopted, would absolutely secure to the tenant the whole value of any improvement he might make on the holding. If a holding grew five quarters of oats to the acre, but the tenant, by his own husbandry, intelligence, and capital, increased the yield to eight quarters an acre, the three extra quarters would be absolutely and entirely his own. One further advantage would ensue upon the adoption of the principle he advocated, namely, the saving of litigation and irritation throughout the country, and the promotion of the purchase of holdings by the tenants. There was one other point which would recommend itself to the noble Marquess, and that was that it would very considerably lighten the labours of the Sub-Commissioners, because they would be able to abstain altogether from going on the land. The method of working the clause would be a fairly simple one. Of course the average of the years preceding the statutory term would be taken in the same way as was done in the case of the tithe rent-charge, in order to determine the rise or fall, if any. It would be easy in practice, although no doubt there would be a good deal of work to be got through first in scheduling and classifying the farms; but he understood the Land Commissioners were now compiling very valuable and interesting statistics with regard to prices, which would be available as a means of reference if the clause should pass. Each farm would be scheduled according to the produce grown upon it, and the reduction could then be determined almost automatically. It would, no doubt, be interesting to their Lordships if he gave one or two authorities in support of his proposals. Griffiths' valuation, which was so often appealed to, and laid down careful principles, was based entirely on prices. In the next place, their own Act of 1887 was based on this principle, and if he was not mistaken the Chief Secretary proposed, in the very Bill now before the House, and subsequently dropped, a clause which contemplated a periodical division of rents based on prices. But, if the Government told him they were not able to take any steps without consulting with the Nationalist members for Ireland, he should be able to satisfy them that Archbishop Walsh and the great Irish leader — for he was a great leader — Mr. Parnell were in favour of this principle, which was asserted years ago in the dispute which arose between Captain Nolan and some of his Irish tenants. He thought, therefore, that if the Government saw their way to accept the Amendment, they need not fear anything but support from the Nationalist Members. He thought he had succeeded in showing that the Act of 1881 laid down no principle for the guidance of the Sub-Commissioners; in the second place, that such a principle was urgently needed at the present time; and, further, that the adoption of such a principle would be followed by great advantages. He trusted, therefore, that it might commend itself to the judgment of the Government. If he might say one word personally, he would mention that he had no personal interest in the matter, because he did not own an acre of land in Ireland. Nor could the Government regard such an Amendment, coming from himself, as a hostile Amendment, for when he was in the other House he gave proofs of his devotion to the Unionist cause, as perhaps the noble Marquess (Salisbury) might remember. He hoped the responsibility of rejecting this proposal would be left with the House of Commons—a proposal which appeared to him a just, fair and reasonable settlement of this very difficult problem.

LORD MONTEAGLE confessed that the case for the Amendment was so strong that he ventured to believe that the Government would accept it. He considered that the noble Earl had even understated his own case. The noble Earl had pointed out the advantages which would accrue to the landlords, and he spoke of the reductions which had recently taken place, and that under the Act of 1881 the reductions were of an arbitrary character. The advantage of the system proposed would be as great, if not greater, for the tenant than for the landlord; for the sitting tenant as well as for the incoming tenant. If he were a tenant, while he hoped he should not deteriorate the farm, he should hesitate before improving it, for they all knew that in the vast majority of cases the valuers were influenced by the land as they saw it. The rent fixed would be higher in proportion as the land was better farmed. Therefore, he said without hesitation that this clause was, if possible, of more interest to the tenant than to the farmer. Then, another matter referred to by the noble Lord, in which he heartily concurred, was the effect which it would have in promoting settlements out of Court. In the interest of landlords and tenants, therefore, he cordially and earnestly recommended the clause to the attention of the House.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE regretted that the noble Lord had not acceded to his suggestion that time should be given to the Government to consider this matter, but in common prudence, if the Amendment was pressed to a Division, they should have to say not-content. The clause involved a serious and far-reaching disturbance of the present law. As to the reference to the proposal originally in the Bill on this subject, he reminded the Committee that it was a proposal for a voluntary arrangement which landlord and tenant might adopt if they pleased. This clause proposed a compulsory arrangement which would bind everyone. He was not sure that the noble Lord was consistent: he told them that the fair rents fixed by the Land Courts were unjust rents, but it was those very rents he had asked them to take as a basis. That was not a logical position to take.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN hoped the noble Lord would listen to the appeal of the noble Marquess. They had listened with great interest to the speech of the noble Lord, but it appeared to him that the scheme had not sufficiently developed itself, and required more consideration. Moreover, he did not think the principles contained in the clause would coincide with those of the Bill.

LORD MACNAGHTEN thought the admirable and lucid speech of the noble Lord amply justified the course he had taken in bringing the matter before their Lordships. He did not, however, think they should be asked to make up their minds on the subject on the spur of the moment, but they felt at the same time now deeply they were indebted to him for the assistance he had given them.

*THE EARL OF WINCHILSEA said that after the appeals which had been addressed to him he did not think it would be fair to press the matter to a Division. He would, therefore, content himself with the assurance that this matter would be very carefully considered. He asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn; clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2,—

STATUTORY TERM AND BEGINNING OF JUDICIAL RENT.

(1.) On the expiration of a statutory term in a present tenancy the tenancy shall continue a present tenancy subject to the same rent and conditions (including the statutory conditions) as during the statutory term, until the tenancy is determined, or a new statutory term for the holding begins, and an application to fix a fair rent may be made at any time during such continuance of the tenancy; and no objection to such application shall be allowed which could have been but was not taken upon the application for a previous judicial rent, or being then taken was overruled.

(2.) Where the Court on application fix a judicial rent for a holding, the judicial rent and statutory term shall begin from the gale day next after the date of the application, or if a preceding statutory term is then current, from any later gale day on which that statutory term expires.

(3.) The judicial rent fixed by order of the Court for a holding shall, as from the gale day from which it begins, be the rent payable by the tenant of the holding; and where it differs from the previous rent, whether or not a judicial rent, then in respect of the period which may have elapsed since the gale day from which it began, the difference, if the judicial rent so fixed is higher than the previous rent, shall be paid by the tenant, and if the judicial rent so fixed is lower, may, if it has been actually paid by the tenant, be deducted from any rent subsequently payable by him, unless the judicial rent exceeds fifty pounds a year, in which case the difference may be deducted from any rent subsequently payable by him to the landlord to whom such difference has been paid, or to his personal representatives, or where the estate of such landlord has determined may be recovered from such landlord or his personal representatives.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH moved, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words—

"be deducted from any rent subsequently payable by him, unless the judicial rent exceeds fifty pounds a year, in which case the difference may be deducted."

He had put down the Amendment in order to get an explanation of these words.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said the point was a little difficult to explain. The case was that of a tenant whose fair rent ran from a date earlier than the date upon which it was fixed by the Court. In a case of that kind, if the fair rent was lower than the old rent, it was clear that the tenant had, during the interval, been making an over-payment. The object of the clause was to provide for an adjustment of that over-payment. Where the tenant was a small tenant, under £50, they thought it rather hard that he should be put to the trouble and expense of instituting proceedings against the landlord for the recovery of the amount which he had overpaid.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said it would relieve the smaller tenant no doubt, but, at the expense of a man who had not received any part of the money. It was a very small matter, but it was a most extraordinary principle to put in a Bill.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said this was a provision, made—roughly, he admitted—with regard to the exigencies of the smaller class of tenants. The line had to be drawn at some figure—a more or less arbitrary line—above which it was thought those who wished to recover should be left to pursue the ordinary remedies against whoever was bound to repay them.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH thought it was a very Irish way of dealing with the matter. He asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3,—

JUDICIAL TERM IN CASES OF AGREEMENTS.

In the case of a tenant who applied to the Court under Section sixty of the Land Law

(Ireland) Act, 1881, on the first occasion on which it sat, to have a fair rent fixed, and who, since making that application, has signed an agreement under Sub-section six of Section eight of the said Act, the statutory term so created shall, where the judicial rent has been received as having accrued due from the gale day succeeding the date of the application, for the purpose of an application to fix a fair rent, be held to date from the day on which the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, came into force.

Clause 3 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4,—

EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN HOLDINGS.

(1.) The Land Law Acts, except Section seven of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881 (which amends the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, in respect of compensation for improvements), shall not apply to the following tenancies:—

(*a.*) To a tenancy in any holding which is not substantially either agricultural or pastoral in its character, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral, or the main object of the letting of which was for a residence:

(*b.*) To a tenancy in any holding which substantially consists of—

(i) land being or forming part of a home farm; or

(ii) land which when first demised was demesne, and which the provisions of the contract of tenancy, or the circumstances of the case, show was intended to be preserved as demesne or resumed as demesne by the landlord; or

(iii) land incorporated in a demesne by the tenant, and forming part of a demesne at the time the application to fix a fair rent is made:

(*c.*) To a tenancy in a holding (other than a holding let to be used wholly or mainly for a dairy farm) which is let to be used wholly or mainly for the purpose of pasture—

(i) if it is of the rateable value of upwards of one hundred pounds; or

(ii) if the tenant does not actually reside on the holding, or where the holding adjoins or is ordinarily used with another holding, then on the latter holding:

(2) Where a distinct and substantive part of the property held under one demise is demesne land, or is not agricultural or pastoral in its character, or is an incorporeal hereditament, and the Court consider that that part is not the substantial part of such property, the Court may, if they are of opinion that, apart from the fixing of a fair rent, the separation of the property into two parts will not diminish the value of the landlord's interest therein, direct that that part shall thenceforth be, or, if it is an incorporeal hereditament, be treated as, a separate holding, and shall unless the tenancy has expired, be held at such rent during the continuance of the tenancy as the Court may determine to be the proper proportion of the rent reserved by the demise, and the Court may fix a fair rent for the remainder of the property held under the demise, and the said Acts shall apply to that remainder as if it were a separate holding.

(3.) Where a holding is held by joint tenants or tenants in common, and such tenants have worked and occupied separate portions thereof, and the division of the holding was made prior to the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, the Court may if it think just, on the application of any joint tenant or tenant in common, fix a fair rent upon the portion of the holding so separately occupied.

(4.) Nothing in this section shall extend to any holding in respect of which a judicial rent has been fixed before the commencement of this Act.

LORD MACNAGHTEN moved to leave out Paragraph (*a*) Sub-section (1)—

"To a tenancy in any holding which is not substantially either agricultural or pastoral in its character, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral, or the main object of the letting of which was for a residence."

He wished to know what was the difference between land which was agricultural and land which was "substantially" agricultural" in its character. Speaking as a lawyer, he could not see the slightest difference between the two. Lord Justice Fitzgibbon had held that if a holding was homogeneous there was no difference between its being agricultural or substantially agricultural, but if it was not homogeneous—as, for instance, where some tithes were included in the letting—there was some difference. He confessed he had some difficulty in following that argument, but that point was provided for in the Bill by the next section. He thought it was extremely dangerous to make this difference.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said the Land Acts at present applied, speaking generally, only to what might be described as ordinary farms, but he believed there had been holdings of which an insignificant part was not of the description of an ordinary farm, and the tenant of such a holding had found himself excluded from the advantages of the Land Act. The object of the word "substantial" was to provide that where there was a farm of which all but an insignificant portion was an ordinary farm, the tenant should not be denied the advantage of a fair rent.

That seemed to him to be a reasonable proposal, and one which was in accordance with the practice of the Courts. The noble and learned Lord then asked what difference there was between that case and the case dealt with in another sub-section.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said that what he meant was that Lord Justice Fitzgibbon had certain views in cases where the holding was not what he called homogeneous, and that the case which he thought should be provided for was provided for in the next sub-section. He did not think it wise to enact the word "substantial."

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND thought the word "substantial" was a useful and convenient word. They had acted very harshly in several cases, the names of which he did not recollect for the moment, but which were very familiar, and it was, therefore, most important that the word "substantial" should be retained in the clause. On the whole, he thought that it would be very much wiser in the circumstances to retain the word in the clause, it having been inserted for the purpose of meeting what was generally admitted to be a real grievance.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said that after what had fallen from the noble Marquess, he would not press his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD MACNAGHTEN moved, after Paragraph (ii), Sub-section (1), to insert the following new paragraph:—

"(iii) land which when first demised was demesne and which was originally let by a limited owner or."

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said that no doubt both the noble Lord and Her Majesty's Government desired the same thing, namely, to protect the demesne lands, although the language they used was different. The only difference between their proposals was this. The Government said that the Act should not apply to demesne land when the circumstances showed that the landlord in letting the land did not intend to deprive it for all time of its character as demesne land. The noble and learned Lord wished to put the onus the other way, and to say that where land was proved to have been once demesne land, it could not be undemesned unless the contract or the circumstances showed that it was intended to deprive the land for all time of its demesne character. He was advised that the clause as it stood did nothing more than declare what was the existing law.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said that in principle there was no difference between himself and the noble Marquess —the only question between them was upon whom the onus of proof was to fall. As the law now stood he should have thought that it was only fair that the onus should have fallen upon the tenant. If, however, the noble Marquess declined to accept his Amendment, he was willing to withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said that there was another point on which he should be glad to have the noble Marquess's opinion, and that was in the case of demesne land having been let by a limited owner. He did not think that a limited owner ought to be allowed to let the demesne land to the detriment of the remainderman.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said that the point could be more conveniently raised on Sub-section (2) of Clause 9.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD CLONCURRY moved, in Sub-paragraph (i), Paragraph (*c*), Sub-section (1), to leave out the words "one hundred" and to insert instead thereof the word "fifty." The Bill, as it stood, proposed that fair rents should be fixed in the case of pasture farms of the annual value of £100 instead of £50, as the law now stood. The Government had stated that the change in agricultural values had rendered it necessary to make the proposed change in the existing law. They had heard a great deal about the reduction of rents, but they had not yet heard of rents being raised from £50 to £100 a year. The Government proposed, by a side wind, to revolutionise all the contracts relating to farms of the annual value of between £50 and £100. The Bill, as it stood, proposed to repeal the provisions of the Act of 1881, which expressly declared that only farms of an annual value below £50 should be affected by this kind of legislation. The lower limit was fixed upon by Mr. Gladstone and his Government when the Act of 1881 was being passed. Mr. Gladstone, on the occasion to which he referred, had distinctly declared that he had no desire to make a holocaust of freedom of contract in Ireland, and drew the limit at £50 annual value. This question was not exclusively an Irish one, and neither was it an agricultural one, because it concerned cattle dealers in both countries equally. There was no reason why officials in Dublin should have obliged the Chief Secretary to trample out this last remnant of free contract. He asked the noble Marquess not to make this unnecessary change in the law. If the noble Marquess found himself unable to support the Amendment, he appealed to noble Lords from all parts of the United Kingdom to support it.

*The Earl of ERNE said the action of the Government in raising the limit in the case of pasture farms from £50 to £100 was indefensible. The Act of 1881 was based upon the assumption that the majority of tenants in Ireland were so poor and ignorant, and incapable of taking care of themselves, that they had to be protected from the rapacity of some of the landlords. There was no use in inquiring at that time of day how far that assumption was correct. But the greater part of his property was held by those tenants, and they were quite as shrewd and as capable of taking care of themselves as any he knew of. It was an extraordinary thing that a Conservative Government should upset the settlement of 1881, and take away another slice of the landlords' property. The noble Marquess who moved the Second Reading of the Bill stated, as a reason for the inclusion within the scope of the Land Act of pasture tenants between £50 and £100, that the difference between them and the tenants already under the Act was not sufficiently marked to justify their exclusion. But in the House of Commons, Mr. Gerald Balfour, speaking on a similar Amendment to this, stated as the reason that, in consequence of the change in the condition of agriculture, a large number of farms had reverted from tillage to pasture. That was quite true; but that process had been going on for a period long anterior to 1881. It began in 1848, when, owing to the decrease in the population, the decline in the price of corn, and the increase in the value of stock, hundreds of acres of tillage had been turned into grass. But the same condition of things that existed in 1881 existed now, and there was no justification for departing from the settlement of 1881.

Lord MACNAGHTEN supported the Amendment on the ground that it was not desirable to make any alterations in the Act of 1881 unless there was reason for it. He thought the alteration which the Government had made was based on a misapprehension. The Morley Committee said that "tillage being now less profitable under the changed conditions of agriculture it was natural"—he could not comprehend what "natural" meant there—"and conformable with the policy of that Act"—he also failed to grasp the meaning of that phrase—"that the limit of exclusion of pasture holdings should be raised." It was said by one Member of the Committee that the limit existing in the case of pasture farms had operated with harshness, and would operate with increasing harshness in the future. But it should be remembered that a farm, in order to be within the exclusion of the Land Act, must be let to be used for pasture. If a farmer took a thousand acres and turned it into pasture, the power of fixing a fair rent on it would be unaltered. In fact, it was utterly impossible now to bring any fresh land within the excluding section. Nor could it be said that there was any grasping desire on the part of the landlords to exact large rents from pasture farmers. One of the official witnesses before the Morley Committee said he did not find that pasture land was more highly rented in proportion to value than tillage land; and also that the fall in the value of agricultural produce since 1879 did not affect pasture land so much as tillage land, if, indeed, it affected pasture land at all. Only one witness spoke in favour of raising the limit in the case of pasture farms. He was a very eminent person, but he did not seem to be confident of his own opinion. When asked whether he had any suggestion to make on the subject, he said "he should be disposed" to make the limit £100 instead of £50. An opinion expressed so modestly was not worth anything.

*LORD CLONBROCK said he was well acquainted with the class of tenants affected by the Amendment. They had but little in common with agricultural tenants, they belonged, as a rule more to the class of cattle dealers, and there was no reason why the principle of free contracts should be departed from in their case. They were expressly excluded from the Act of 1881 as being perfectly able to make their own bargains, and they were not likely to have since deteriorated in that respect. The inclusion of a farm within the Land Act not only resulted in a reduction of rent in most cases, but it deprived the landlord of a considerable amount of property in other ways. The landlord's right of re-entry was taken away by giving the tenant fixity of tenure, and the fixing of the tenant-right materially curtailed the value of a farm. The only reason which he had heard for the transfer of this property from the landlord to this class of tenant was that they were dissatisfied, and wanted to be placed in the same position as those under £50, but really the principle that a man was only to hold property until someone else wanted it, was a somewhat novel one, even as applied to Ireland, and he thought would hardly meet with approval in their Lordships' House. But with regard to the inclusion of this or any other class of tenant in the provisions of the Land Act, and the consequent loss to the landlords, he would like to say to this House what he knew the landowners in the west of Ireland, and he believed in all parts of Ireland, would wish to say to both Houses of Parliament. You did us a grievous wrong in 1881. We are far from saying that you did it intentionally. It was the belief of the framers of the Act of that year, and no doubt adopted by you, that for any loss the landlord would sustain he would be fully indemnified by the enhanced security of his income, and that the value of his property would rise to over 20 years' purchase. The result has been widely different. It has fallen from over 20 years' purchase of the former rent to between 15 and 18 of the reduced rent. You did us a further injustice in 1887, and with less excuse, as you had some experience to guide you, but you then believed in finality. Now you know that there is no finality in this Measure. You did not know what you were doing in 1881, you could not know, it was an experiment. You do know what you are doing in 1896, therefore whatever you do, you are doing with your eyes open. He hoped the Committee would fully consider this, and would accept the Amendment.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said it was with regret he found himself resisting the earnest and temperate appeal of the noble Lord. He would state in the fewest possible words why it was the Government thought it necessary to adhere to their proposal as it stood in the Bill. They were well aware of the inconvenience of money limits. A division of one class from another by a money limit must obviously by an arbitrary division, and must lead to a sense of grievance amongst those persons who found themselves excluded. The Government believed that the limit, as it now existed, was drawn in the wrong place, and that if they maintained it they would leave a sense of disappointment and discontent amongst the farmers of a particular class who were at present denied the advantages of a fair rent, and who were really not distinguishable from their neighbours to whom these advantages were not denied. Much had been said of the intention of the framers of the Act of 1881. Undoubtedly the intention was to exclude grazing farmers, not of the kind that they proposed to admit under the clause, but men such as those who were referred to by the noble Earl who moved the Amendment—sales masters, butchers, and people of that kind. Now they believed there were grazing farmers between the £50 and £100 limit who were farmers pure and simple, and between whom and the sales masters and graziers there was really little or nothing in common. One noble Lord indicated that in his opinion the test they ought to apply was the ability of the tenant to take care of himself, and that as the graziers between £50 and £100 were able to take care of themselves there was no cause for admitting them to the benefit of the Act. But that test was not the test which was adopted under the existing law. In the case of dairy farms the limit was £250. In the case of tillage farms there was no limit at all. A man might be paying £1,000 a year rent and surely capable of taking care of himself, but he was admitted to the benefit of the Act. One word with regard to the suggestion that the Amendment would have the effect of admitting persons of the cattle dealing class, who as the noble Lord said, hired a few fields, but were not farmers of the ordinary type at all. Surely men of that class would be excluded by the wording of the clause, because the Government expressly stipulated that if the tenant did not reside on his holding he was to be, whatever his valuation, excluded from the benefits of the Act. Therefore that particular apprehension was not entitled to much weight. The Government had considered the matter carefully, and they had come to the conclusion that it was their duty to admit farmers of the particular class to which this clause applied.

*VISCOUNT POWERSCOURT wished to say a word on this important question of grazing holdings. There were not only grazing holdings of fine grass, but large mountain grazings to include which in the Act would be injurious. He had taken legal opinion upon this subject and if their Lordships would allow him he would read one or two passages from it.

> "There is no reason for extending the limit imposed upon the tenants of grazing farms with regard to the fixing of fair rents. The existing limit of farms having an annual value of £50 was fixed with the object of enabling all the poorer class of tenants, no matter what the nature of their holdings might be, to have a fair rent fixed. It was supposed that small tenants might be unable to protect themselves in making contracts with their landlords; but that this was not the case with tenants holding larger farms, and who were possessed of more capital."

The tenant of a large grazing farm is not in the ordinary sense an agriculturist; he is rather a dealer in cattle, and a large number of men who require grazing farms take them only by the season. This is not the case with tillage farms. He supposed it was not intended to include tenants who took the grass for six months in the summer. He was sure that was not the intention of the Act of 1881. And Mr. Gladstone specially excepted those tenants. Besides, all these grazing farms were taken by agreement; there was no question of fair rent about them, the rent was agreed upon.

> "The clause in the present Bill would admit tenants of holding of the annual value of £100 who are perfectly able to protect themselves with regard to the rents they pay, and can always get land by the season for the market value if too high a rent were demanded for a permanent letting. Once the limit of £50 is overstepped there is no reason to stop at that limit, and no argument will be good against a limit of £150 that would not have been equally good against the limit of £100. No reason has been given in the Debates on the present Bill in the House of Commons for widening the limit, and none has ever been given elsewhere. No evidence was given in support of the change before Mr. Morley's Committee except that of Mr. Justice Bewley, who gave no reason for his opinion. Under the second part of the clause a tenant might hold under the same or different landlords three different grazing holdings, each of them under £100 a year (say £90 a year), and he could come into Court with each of them although he only resided upon one, because the adjoining holdings upon which he resided would be holdings to which the Acts apply; or if the holding in question was under one landlord and the tenant resided upon an adjoining grazing farm of a value of £300 or £400 a year held under another landlord, he could have a fair rent fixed on the smaller holding, thus defeating altogether the object of the original limit, which was to protect tenants who required protection. Where landlords, upon the faith of the Act of 1881, let grazing lands valued at upwards of £50 subsequent to that Act, believing that they were letting under a system of free contract, this Bill will confer on the tenants all the rights enjoyed by present tenants under that Act."

He appealed to the Government to give way under this clause. The Irish landlords had been fighting for them and spending money and everything else in supporting the Government, and now they were treated in this way. The only thing they had in free contracts were these grazing holdings and now it was proposed to take them away.

*LORD INCHIQUIN wished to endorse what had been said about these grazing holdings. There were a great many in the county of Clare which he owned himself. There could be no grievance (as far as his knowledge went, which extended over the county and adjoining counties), on the part of any individual who occupied one of these holdings. It was clear that they were let for pasturage only and these were the terms on which they were let. As Lord

Macnaghten pointed out, the reasons attempted to be raised before the Morley Commission were perfectly wrong. No holding capable of being tilled and let for tillage as well as pasture would come under the Act. It was old pasture lettings their Lordships were talking of, and he protested against what was proposed to be done by the Government unless they did it with their eyes open. In his opinion it was simply taking so much out of the landlord's hands and putting it in the hands of someone else. If the Government were prepared to hold to this let them understand what they were doing. They were giving to the tenants of these holdings power to sub-let them, which they had no difficulty in doing to any grazier or any one else, and get the extreme rent the holding would fetch and put it in their pockets. At present the landlord had that power and there was no reason why he should be prevented from continuing to exercise it. Lord Lansdowne had reminded them that large agricultural tenants under the Act of 1881 could go into Court and get these rents fixed. In the year 1881 he moved a clause to exclude tenants over £50, and much to his regret, Lord Lansdowne who was a large owner of land in Ireland opposed it, also the late Lord Waterford on the ground that it would be much better not to have a perpetual interference with property. He was sorry to say he withdrew his Amendment on that occasion, although he was afterwards told that if he had pressed it to a Division many noble Lords would have supported him, and thus a provision which had done gross injury would never have become law. It seemed to him, if this proposal of the Government were allowed to pass, a certain amount of property would be taken from the landlords, who were the owners of it.

The Marquess of LONDONDERRY intended to support the Amendment, because he had heard no reason given by the Government as to why a new class of tenants should be admitted to the advantages of the Land Act of 1881. He understood the Bill was to elucidate and make intelligible the Act of 1881, and not to confer benefits on people who were excluded from that Act by taking away property from those who could ill afford to lose it. ["Hear, hear!"] The clause to which the Amendment was directed proposed to admit to the advantages of the fair-rent Courts a number of men who were declared by the Act of 1881 to have no right to enter these Courts, because there was no necessity that they should do so. The only excuse the noble Marquess had put forward for this clause was that there was a money limit, which caused annoyance to those who were excluded. But whom should they be annoyed with? With Mr. Gladstone and his Government, that passed the Act of 1881. Mr. Gladstone declared that he purposely excluded from the advantages of the Act of 1881 the tenants who were rated at over £50 and under £100, because they were well able to take care of themselves, and perfectly independent of anything like coercion on the part of their landlords. ["Hear, hear!"] Again, the late Mr. Parnell stated in the House of Commons that, in his opinion, tenants of all kinds whose holdings were rated at this amount of £50 had got all that they were fairly entitled to, and that the land question only survived in the case of the smaller tenants. No answer had been given to the question, why it was proposed to admit to the benefits of the Act of 1896 the people who were deprived of the benefits of the Act of 1881? There were many graziers in the rich parts of Ireland who did not make their living merely in this way. They had other interests and callings, and he would ask their Lordships to remember that the competition rents of the graziers it was now proposed to admit to the benefits of this Bill far exceeded the judicial rents of their holdings. ["Hear, hear!"] He considered this was a question of vital importance, which his noble Friend was justified in asking their Lordships to divide upon, because the Government were going away from what they had been given to understand was their programme and policy with regard to this Measure. [*Cheers.*] That programme was to elucidate and make intelligent the Act of 1881, and not add to it any further confiscation of the rights of the landlords. [*Cheers.*] He maintained that by admitting to the benefits of this Bill a fresh body of people, on whom, moreover, there was no need to confer those benefits, the Government were infringing the rights of the Act of 1881. ["Hear, hear!"]

Lord MACNAGHTEN contended that the argument he had presented to their Lordships had not been answered. He had pointed out that the recommendation of Mr. Morley's Committee was founded on a blunder, and it was perfectly clear that, if the whole tillage land in Ireland was turned into pasture, the number of persons included in the exemption clause would not be in the slightest degree increased. The noble Marquess based his argument simply on the belief of himself and those associated with him in the Cabinet. But why should they act on their belief? Nobody could have a higher respect for their belief than he; but there were plenty of people who believed exactly the opposite. ["Hear, hear!"] Why was the House asked to act on the belief of the noble Marquess? Surely, when they were going to make a serious inroad on the Act of 1881, there would not have been the slightest difficulty in obtaining a return, showing who the people were who lay between the limits of £50 and £100. Let them know how many there were and in what counties. But they were now asked—and he had never heard of such a thing before—to act in the dark on the belief of the noble Marquess and his colleagues. [*Cheers.*]

The Earl of DUNRAVEN was very glad the Government were not going to accept the Amendment. He did not think the clause would have the consequences which some noble Lords seemed to anticipate; or that under it grazing tenants, having a fair rent fixed, would be empowered and entitled to sub-let their holdings. Neither did he think that the clause would apply to the cases which had been mentioned, of men taking pasturage, say for six months. It might be perfectly true that the intention of the framers of the Act of 1881 was to protect tenants who were incapable of protecting themselves, but that Act, taken with subsequent Acts, had long ago departed from any idea of that kind. But if that was the real intention he should have thought the Act of 1881 would have contained a clause to the effect that it was only to apply to imbeciles or persons in such abject poverty that they were absolutely incapable of taking care of themselves. But whatever the intention was it was perfectly certain that a class of men were admitted to the benefits of the Act who were perfectly capable of taking care of themselves. His point was that there was a class of men in Ireland who he did not think had been rightly described as mere cattle dealers. There was a class of men, large graziers, and he could not see any sense, logic, rhyme or reason for allowing them to be excluded from an Act which applied without limit to agricultural farms and which also applied to cases of leaseholders and so on. He thought it would be very unwise from the point of view of the landlords' interest to keep out of the benefits of the Bill a class of men who were well to do, who were disposed for order and good government, and he sincerely hoped that Amendment would not be carried.

Lord ORANMORE and BROWNE observed that there was one great hardship which would be inflicted by extending this limit to cases of £100 a year to graziers. After the famine landlords came into possession of land not very often by ejectment, but by desertion. He knew many instances where they had spent large sums of money in cultivating, draining and improving the land. They had made bad land into excellent land, and if now, the tenant might come in and break it up, or do whatever he liked with it, it was the grossest injustice that ever was perpetrated. At this moment he knew friends of his who were still improving and laying out money, but they had ceased, naturally, altogether to lay out money, and to stop improvement altogether in view of this Bill. There was another matter. In old times long leases were given. He knew from his experience, that when these leases fell in the lands were in a ruinous state. Then there was another thing, and that was, that pasture was more desirable than tillage in their country, because, when the climate was so wet, they never could tell what time they could put in their crops or what time they could get them out. He knew that meadow lying out as late as November was very little injured, while the cultivation of arable land ruined those who had it.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The DUKE of DEVONSHIRE) said the noble Marquess who spoke just before upon this subject seemed to be under the impression that he and his Friends had been taken by surprise in finding that the present Bill contained any such provision as this. He was quite sure that his noble Friend was not one of those whose political conduct would have been influenced by any such consideration, but they had heard in the course of that Debate some observations from some noble Lords, chiefly from Ireland, complaining of the conduct of the Government towards them, considering all that had been done for the Government by them and their friends in Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"] He thought it was well to remember that, although the particular provisions of the Bill could not be known before it was introduced, ample notice was given, even before the General Election took place, of the general lines upon which the Government intended to legislate in regard to Irish land, and that no noble Lord or any of their friends could have acted throughout the Election in ignorance of the fact that it was the intention of the Government to propose to legislate again upon Irish land, and substantially upon the lines of this Bill. [*Cries of* "No!"] The pledges which were given on the subject were chiefly contained in a speech made by the Chief Secretary, he thought at Leeds, which was frequently quoted in Ireland, and amongst those pledges which his right hon. Friend gave was one that the Government would carefully reconsider the exclusions from the Land Act, with the view of securing greater uniformity in dealing with agricultural and pastoral holdings, which were substantially identical in character. After a speech of that kind he did not think anybody could have been taken by surprise at the proposals contained in this Bill. He quite agreed it was a subject which it was extremely difficult to argue about, because all questions about the exact position of a hard-and-fast line must be rather matters of opinion than matters which were capable of absolute demonstration. It was always very easy, as had been pointed out, to show the absurdity or unreasonableness of including a holding which was rated at £49 within a set of provisions, while a holding rated at £51 was excluded from them. But the object of the Act of 1881 in drawing this line was perfectly clear, although there might be great differences of opinion as to how far it was sufficient or insufficient in accomplishing that object. The object of that Act was undoubtedly to include within the limits of the Act holdings which, though they might be pasture holdings, were substantially farming holdings, upon which the tenant made his living by the occupation of farming. At the same time the object of the Act was to exclude the great grazing farms upon which the tenant did not live, but which were held by graziers and dealers, and were not dependent in any sense upon agricultural industry. It was only experience which could show whether the limit fixed by the Act of 1881 was sufficient or insufficient to accomplish the objects which were perfectly understood to have been the objects of the Act. Lord Inchiquin said he was very well acquainted with a great many holdings of this character; but was the noble Lord prepared to say that he was not acquainted with the cases of tenant-farmers who held grazing tenancies, and who made their living by farming as completely as the man who owned an agricultural tenancy? Was he prepared to say, intimately acquainted as he was with these tenancies, that the whole of the men between £50 and £100 rating who occupied these tenancies belonged to the class of graziers or dealers, and not to the class of tenant-farmers? The noble Lord also anticipated that this legislation would be followed by the sub-letting of these holdings—["Hear, hear!"]—that the present holder would sub-let his tenancy and would obtain a rack-rent from it while he put the difference in his pocket. The noble Lord must be perfectly aware that every tenant who came under the Act, if he availed himself of the Act, precluded himself from sub-letting, and that, if he sub-let, he immediately lost all the benefits of the Act. His own opinion, or the opinion of any one of them perhaps, was of very little value as to whether the line was rightly drawn at the limit of £50 or would be rightly extended to £100, or whether either of those lines most faithfully carried out what was the undoubted intention of the Act of 1881. That was a subject upon which each of them, he imagined, must be guided by the individual opinion he could form, and by the authority on which they placed reliance. But, although neither his opinion, nor, perhaps, the opinions of his colleagues on such a point as that could be conclusive, or, perhaps, could not be weighed in authority, in comparison with those of the noble Lords who had already spoken, he thought he could indicate one or two reasons, founded upon policy, why it would be unwise to reject, as he was afraid their Lordships were prepared to reject, this proposal. Most of those who were opposed to some of the provisions of the Bill desired—at least so they were informed on the Second Reading, though sometimes during the course of these discussions he had begun a little to doubt it—that the Bill should, with certain alterations, pass. If they desired that this Bill should pass, they also desired, he imagined, that it should give some satisfaction in Ireland, and that it should be, if not a final settlement—which was perhaps too much to hope—at any rate a settlement of the question for some short period of time. It appeared to him that if they rejected this proposal they did a great deal to put an end to any prospect of the Bill giving either satisfaction in Ireland or being a settlement of the question for any length of time at all. This was an alteration of the law, their Lordships must remember, which had not been forced upon the Government in the other House. It was the proposal of the Government itself. From the moment that this Bill was introduced every tenant of a grazing holding between the limits of £50 and £100 had known that it was proposed to extend to him the advantages which were already enjoyed by his neighbours. Many of them had been looking forward with feelings of hope to the relief which they expected to obtain under this provision. To these men, whether they were many or few, the rejection of this clause would come as a deep and bitter disappointment, and would be considered—he would not say justly considered—by them as a denial of that measure of justice which had been offered to them and which had been contended for on their behalf, not only by their own representatives, but by the Unionist Government, who, as their Lordships must remember, had been supported by a very large majority in the Unionist House of Commons. The withdrawal of this concession, which the Government, under no compulsion, offered to these tenants, could not but produce a feeling of very keen and bitter disappointment on the part of a considerable number of men scattered over many counties and districts in Ireland—men who naturally possessed some considerable influence among their fellow-tenants, and who would be naturally disposed either to continue or to revive an agitation in favour of another amendment of the Land Laws. In his opinion they might far more safely deprive the tenants who were already under the Land Acts of some additional advantages which the Bill proposed to confer upon them than leave outside the operation of the Bill altogether the class which, whether they might be large or small, had not unreasonably felt something amounting to security that they would now be included within its benefits. He did not imagine there was very much probability of the Government being able to maintain this provision in the Bill. Personally, he was disposed to take the sense of the Committee, although he was afraid that, in the present state of the Committee, the division would hardly give a correct representation of the opinion of the House.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said the noble Duke seemed to imply that they who owned property in Ireland were fully aware of the class of Bill which was to be submitted to their Lordships' House. With all due deference to the noble Duke, he emphatically denied that statement. [" Hear hear ! "] The one sentence in the speech of the Chief Secretary at Leeds which made the most impression on his mind was that in which he declared that it was the intention of the Government to kill Home Rule by kindnes. With that sentiment he entirely concurred, and he believed there was a way of killing Home Rule by kindness, and that was by developing the interests of the country. He considered that killing

Home Rule by kindness would be giving the agricultural classes technical education in those branches of education which they required. He considered that killing Home Rule by kindness would be by enabling the occupiers to become the owners of their holdings on terms agreeable to themselves and their landlords, and with no appreciable risk to the State. He never for one moment understood that killing Home Rule by kindness was to introduce a Measure adding to the discomforts imposed on landlords by the Bill of 1881. The noble Duke trusted the Amendment would be passed because he believed it would be the means of giving satisfaction to everybody in Ireland. The Bill gave satisfaction to no one in Ireland. On the Second Reading he told the noble Marquess that his own followers in the House of Commons disliked the Bill, he quoted the remark of Mr. William O'Brien that it was the worst Land Bill ever introduced, and he also pointed out that both Mr. Dillon and Mr. Davitt renounced the Bill. This was the first time he and his Friends from Ireland had as a body voted against their Party, and strong indeed must be their feelings when they did so. If the Government had killed Home Rule by kindness by bringing forward a Land Bill which was necessary—a Bill of a fair and moderate character—they would have received his and his friends' unanimous support—[*cheers*]—and they would have received the support of a larger body than themselves, namely, the landowners in Ireland, who were regarding the Bill as a question of life and death. What had the last Division shown the Government? It had shown them that many of their own followers had deserted them, and that others who had not deserted them were abstaining from voting. Could there be a greater condemnation of a Conservative Government than to be condemned by the Conservative Party in the House of Lords? He was sure the Prime Minister would believe they had not deserted him in the Lobby for, in their opinion, any frivolous or slight reason, but because they honestly and truly believed that the Bill would not only give satisfaction to no one, but would bring absolute ruin to a vast number of landowners of Ireland. He did not know anyone who ought to more sympathise with the Irish landlords on the present occasion than the noble Duke. The noble Duke and his followers had felt the pangs of leaving their Party. They left their Party on the grounds of personal honour and the good of their country, and they were applauded and ever would be. He, therefore, asked the noble Duke to give him and his friends the credit that in voting against the noble Marquess they did so for the sake of conviction and not of Party. The Conservative principle had ever been to conserve, and he regretted to find that now "conserve" was altered to "confiscation." He said he and his noble Friends had been born and bred Members of the Conservative Party, and it was because of that that they found themselves in the Lobby opposed to the noble Marquess. He had an ancestor of whom he was proud, not only on account of the manner in which he discharged his duty as Foreign Minister, but also because he was responsible, more or less, for the Union of Great Britain and Ireland. He asked the noble Marquess what would be the action of that man now if he were alive? Would he support the noble Marquess in a policy that the noble Marquess himself had denounced, that his own Party in the House of Commons denounced when a Measure of a similar character was introduced, a Measure which they regarded as absolutely revolutionary? The noble Marquess knew that that ancestor would never have supported such principles, and neither could he.

LORD EMLY, who addressed the House for the first time, claimed to represent, to a certain extent, the views of the Irish Catholic Liberal Unionists. He also claimed to represent, to a certain extent, the views of that other and larger body of men who might be Unionists to-morrow if only the Government would be true to their pledge that they would ever regard the maintenance of the Union between England and Ireland as their first consideration. What body of men had a better right to express their views on an Irish Land Bill introduced by a Unionist Government than the Catholic Unionists of Ireland? ["Hear, hear!"] They were a small body of men—he was afraid that Liberals and Tories were alike responsible for that—but, even were he the solitary representative in their Lordships' House of that body, he would not hesitate to tell them that if the Irish question, which was mainly the Irish land question, was to be solved on Unionist lines that solution must finally be achieved by Unionists. The Unionist Government proclaimed from the housetops that they were neither a Conservative Party nor yet a landlord party. Were they keeping their pledges? The noble Marquess who had just spoken imagined, and a certain section of the Irish landlords imagined, that this was a Conservative Government. It was nothing of the sort. They, Liberals, left the Leadership of a very cherished Leader because they would not consent to sacrifice the Union between England and Ireland. Certain Irish Catholics made even still greater sacrifices. Severing themselves from their co-religionists, they stood shoulder to shoulder with that party of ascendency in Ireland with whom they had not one political idea in common. As a result of their sacrifices were they to be told that every Land Bill or other Bill introduced by a Unionist Government would only be looked at through Conservative spectacles? If so, they must give up the hope of ever making Ireland a Unionist country. It rested with the Unionist Government. The people of Ireland had up to the present given them more or less a free hand. The noble Lord said that no Party in Ireland was satisfied with the Bill. *The Times*, which was signally misinformed always on Irish topics, said that the representatives of the Irish tenant farmers were not satisfied with the Bill. The Irish farmers were the shrewdest of men and they were looking most eagerly for the passing of the Bill through the House. Of course the representatives of the Irish tenant farmers knew very well that should the Bill pass that House as it was introduced in another place, it would cut the ground from under their feet as it was never cut before. They had been told to expect no good from a Unionist Government, and on these grounds he entreated them not to throw away that opportunity. He should oppose the Amendment.

**Lord CASTLETOWN** said it was with diffidence he rose to answer the few remarks made by the noble Duke. He said that the object of the Act of 1881 was to include pasture holdings where the farmer lived, and only excluded big farmers where the tenants could not live. He had the honour of being a Member of the House of Commons in 1881, and he had a very distinct remembrance of all that occurred, and he had refreshed his memory by reading up the Debates, and he found there was very little reference made to the clause they were now dealing with. The Bill of 1881 distinctly excluded farmers with £50, and speaking with a clear recollection of the speeches made from the Ministerial Bench the object was to protect an ignorant and needy farmer who was unable to make a contract; but the man who was now to be admitted was quite able to make a contract. Everyone in Ireland who had over £100 would feel very much hurt. If they agreed to this they would go on to £150 to £200, to £250 to £400, and the result would be that every single tenant would be admitted to the benefit of the Land Act of 1881. Were they going to stand on the basis of the Act of 1881, or remedy the difficulties which had crept in since. Were they going further? If they were going further let them say so. If they were merely remedying the defects of the Act of 1881, he held that the contention of the noble Duke was not logical. Mr. Gladstone had said at the time, "I am very much opposed to the consideration of holdings," but since then holdings had been consolidated and had become pasture holdings, and those were the holdings they were going to admit. They were going to put into the Act of 1896 the very holdings which they said in 1881 ought not to be admitted. He appealed to his noble and loyal Friend who had opposed this in 1881 to support the Amendment.

The Committee divided on the Question that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause:—

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Marlborough, D.
Ailesbury, M.
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Amendment agreed to.

Lord CASTLETOWN moved to leave out Sub-section (2). He asked the Government to explain exactly what the clause meant. It appeared to him to be very ambiguous, and he was advised that it was very doubtful if the Law Officers knew what the effect of this clause would be in the event of the Bill becoming law. He would cite an actual case in which the clause might have effect. There was a property at the present moment let for shooting purposes, and also with a demesne attached to it, and other outlying land also which was not demesne land. What would be the result if the incorporeal hereditament was segregated in this case from the demesne and other land? Supposing the tenant came into Court to have a fair rent fixed for outlying land, would not that have a very serious effect on the shooting right? On the other hand, would it not have a serious effect on the fair rent, because the landlord might hold that the incorporeal hereditament was so valuable that the fair rent was really of small value. As far as he could make out the clause was not of very great value, it only dealt with a few cases which had cropped up since 1881—he believed five or six cases. He ventured to suggest to the Government that this clause should be left out for the present, and that they should allow those litigants who chose to come before ordinary tribunals to decide these cases. He was afraid the clause as it stood would lead to further litigation.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND thought that grievances had arisen oftener than his noble Friend thought in reference to this matter. Unquestionably it had been found in some cases that a man who was an honest farmer might have a portion of his land that would be demesne land, or otherwise not within the purview of the Land Acts, and he would from that circumstance lose the right to have his case considered under any section of the Land Act. That was considered to be a hardship. It was found that demesne land was capable of being treated separately from the rest of the holding without doing any injustice, and the tenant might be allowed to have a fair rent fixed in respect of the balance of the land which would clearly be within the purview of the Land Acts. He was not answerable for the tribunal under the Land Act of 1881, but they must assume that it would try to administer an Act fairly when their attention was directed to it; they were told here that they were not to consider it separately unless they made up their minds that it would not diminish the landlord's interest therein. It was only fair and reasonable to leave the tribunal that power of making the separation if it could be done justly.

LORD CASTLETOWN put the case of land which had been let to a shooting tenant, where the grazing of a demesne had been let with it, but at the same time the grazing of fields which were not demesne. Could not the tenant go into Court to have a fair rent fixed for those particular fields?

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said he was much obliged to the noble Lord for putting another conundrum to him.

LORD CASTLETOWN said the Bill was full of them.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND pointed out that the cases were all governed by certain words. It rested with the tribunal to say whether they would make any division or whether they would insist on treating it as a whole, and they would only allow it to be broken up into different parts if they thought it could be done without diminishing the landlord's interest therein.

LORD CASTLETOWN: Then I understand we are practically at the mercy of the Court in this matter.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY asked if it would not be possible to define to the Court what their real position should be. They acknowledged that they were at the mercy of the Court.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said that his words were not that they would be at the mercy of the Court. It was a matter that was left to judicial discretion to determine, and he was not aware that there was any different method. It was open to the landlord, when the division was made, to come to the Court and say, "Do not make the division because it will diminish the value of my interest therein." The landlord would submit evidence to show that the division of the holding would diminish the landlord's interest and the tenant would deny that such would be the case, with the result that the matter would have to be decided by the discretion of the Sub-Commissioner.

LORD CASTLETOWN suggested that the difficulty might be overcome by the omission of the words "or is an incorporeal hereditament."

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said that might strike a most serious blow at the whole principle of the clause.

LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE hoped that the noble Lord would press his Amendment to a Division, because he had already elicited from the Government that the Irish landlords were entirely at the mercy of the Land Commissioners, and he did not think that their experience of that mercy led them to think that it was worth much.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that as he had succeeded in extracting so much information on the subject from the noble and learned Lord, he would not press his Amendment to a Division.

Amendment, by leave withdrawn.

LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON moved, in Sub-section (3), to leave out the words "may if it think just," and to insert after the word "common" the words—

"may, if it think that it is just, and that no portion of the holding when divided will be of less value than ten pounds valuation."

His object in moving the Amendment was to prevent an undue sub-division of the holdings.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said that he would accept the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF ARRAN moved to omit Sub-section (3). It appeared to him that the sub-section opened the door to the undue sub-division of holdings. The sub-section would affect a large number of holdings, and in the interest of the tenants themselves as well as of the community, he moved his Amendment.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said that he thought the danger of undue subdivision was obviated by the Amendment which had just been accepted. The limitation of the value of the holding to be separated to £10 would operate as a sufficient safeguard against undue sub-division.

*LORD INCHIQUIN said he thought that the sub-section would permit of the sub-division of large farms of 100 acres which would be most undesirable. In one case he knew of, a man died leaving his farm between his two brothers, one of whom had since died and had been succeeded by his widow, the farm being divided between her and the surviving brother. This was a most dangerous practice.

*LORD MACNAGHTEN said the sub-section was vicious in principle and would certainly lead to a good deal of litigation.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5,—

TOWN PARKS.

In the construction of the ninth section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, the word "agricultural" shall be construed to mean agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral.

*LORD MACNAGHTEN moved to omit Clause 5. Of all those interested in the matter in the county from which he came, no one wanted the clause so far as he could ascertain; of the witnesses examined before the Morley Committee, one, and only one, expressed a desire for it. Of course, that might not be a sufficient reason for standing in the way of the Government, if they desired to tinker harmlessly with the Act of 1881; but he was bound to say—and he said it with all the responsibility of a person occupying a judicial position—that if the clause were carried the whole of the town parks in Ireland would be destroyed. ["Hear, hear!"] He found his Amendment described in the Press that morning as utterly bad, and himself as a ringleader of people. He was not a leader of anybody. He did not know that he had any influence even with his friends. Indeed, it was with the greatest reluctance he intervened in the Debate. He thought a person in his position ought not to interfere in political Debates. But he did not think any man ought to desert his friends when he found them hardly treated. [*Cheers.*] Three conditions had to be regarded, as the Act of 1881 stated, in deciding whether a holding was a town park. It must be a holding, ordinarily termed town parks, adjoining or near to any city or town; it must bear an increased value as accommodation land, over and above the ordinary letting value of land occupied as a farm; and it must be in the occupation of a person living in the city or town or a suburb thereof, at the date of the passing of the Act. No doubt there was a good deal of dissatisfaction with the Land Act of 1881 for its provisions in regard to town parks. He did not think that anybody knew more about it than he did, for he was at the time Member for the county of Antrim, where the subject was a burning question. Of course, every shopkeeper in a town who had a little piece of land would have been very glad if the fee simple value of that land had been presented to him. But he pointed out at meeting after meeting during the elections of 1885 and 1886, when he stood successfully for the Northern Division of Antrim, that they must really consider the accommodation of their fellow-townsmen. It was then said that there were thousands and thousands of people who were ordinary farmers and who were kept out of the Land Court because their holdings were town parks. That seemed to him a very reasonable point to take, and he said at the time that if he ever got the opportunity he would do his best to amend the law. He thought it very unreasonable indeed that any *bonâ fide* farmer should be kept out of the Land Court because his holding was a town park. Well, in 1887, a Land Act came up from the House of Commons with a provision as to town parks, fixing a population limit. Everybody now admitted that that was a mistake. Their Lordships rejected it, and he moved the provision which now stood part of the Land Act of 1887 that a fair rent might be fixed, for a piece of land although a town park, if it were let and used as an ordinary agricultural farm. Next came the Morley Committee. The bulk of the evidence taken before that Committee was undoubtedly in favour of retaining town parks as they were now under the Act of 1887. The only gentleman who gave evidence before that Committee in favour of the action which the Government had taken was Mr. Justice Bewley, an excellent Judge, indeed, but not sound on the subject of town parks. At any rate, he was very unfortunate. He first adopted a population limit. He was overruled in that. He then expressed the singular opinion that the words their Lordships inserted in the Bill of 1887 had no particular meaning, and he was overruled in that. It was the case of "Macnamara *v.* Macnamara," which related to a town park at Ennis, which was a considerable town in County Clare. A Mr. Macnamara was the landlord. The tenant was a Mr. Talbot, who managed the town park in a peculiar way. He inaugurated a rotation of crops, simple, economical and remunerative. His holding was 10 acres in extent, and for that he paid £30 a year. Every alternate year, regularly, he let the town park in conacre or muck ground, as it is called in Clare. For every acre he got £6, so, for letting the land in alternate years he got double the rent. In alternate years he grew wheat on it. He had no manure to pay for, and was only at the expense of seed and labour. No doubt the system was profitable, for he continued it for a good many years. In process of time he died, and his wife carried on the town park exactly according to the system of rotation he had followed. Then a country attorney named Macnamara picked it up—country attorneys generally picked up the best things going. [*Laughter.*] He did not carry on the same system. Apparently he had sheep farms in several places, and he used the town park to feed his sheep. The Act of 1887 was then passed, which was intended for *bonâ fide* farmers, and he took his landlord into the Court, and the Sub-Commissioners promptly reduced his rent to £20 a year. They thought it was an ordinary agricultural holding, and had been used as such. The landlord appealed to the Chief Commissioner, and Mr. Justice Bewley also thought that was the ordinary way to treat an agricultural farm. Then the landlord appealed to the Court of Appeal, and he would read an extract or two from the Judgment of the Court, because it presented his argument more clearly and in better words than he could present it. Chief Baron Pallas, who was as sound a lawyer as could be found in Ireland or in England said:—

> "Neither is the user by Macnamara within the section unless we read the words 'ordinary agricultural farm' as capable of including holdings pastoral in their character. It is not possible to do that. In Section 58 of the Act of 1881 agricultural and pastoral holdings are distinguished from each other. That section is amended by Section 9 of the Act of 1887, and the two sections must be read as dovetailed into one another. It would unsettle foundations"

That was an argument the Government did not pay much attention to nowadays. [*Laughter.*]

> "if we were to hold 'ordinary agricultural farm' in the amending section to include pastoral holdings when the amending section treats pastoral as distinguished from agricultural holdings. Reading the two sections together, it seems to me that the legislature has purposely omitted pastoral holdings from the later section. There may be good reasons for this. I can quite understand that land that afforded grass for a cow in the neighbourhood of a town and a tillage farm in the same locality should be subject to different incidents. However, we have nothing to do with the motive that actuated the legislature."

About the same time there was another case in which Lord Chancellor Walker and Lord Justices Fitzgibbon and Barry agreed. Lord Chancellor Walker expressed his opinion as follows :—

> "It will be observed that 'town park' in Section 58 is excluded, although it is agricultural or pastoral, or partly both, because if not such it would be excluded by other provisions of the Act, and further it was difficult to imagine any town park which does not, in the course of management, receive use similar to what a farm received. The growth of oats, feed of cattle, are the ordinary uses of a town park or farm, and when, therefore, the legislation in 1887 superadded to, found an exclusion from an exclusion, it must be assumed that they intended to describe a character of holding which would not only have the incidents already common to town parks, but be facts of its tenure and use, something different from the subject matter which was tenure and use with townsman accommodation which even the Act of 1887 carefully preserved. It may not be easy to give a definition of what is an 'ordinary agricultural farm.' The onus in each case is on the tenant to show his holding comes within the words, and I think it is impossible to leave out of sight all the circumstances, including the personalty of the tenant when you have to ascertain the character of the letting and use."

It would be impossible to find the intention which the House had in view when they passed the Act of 1887 better expressed than it was in these Judgments. Then came Mr. Morley's Committee. Two gentlemen on the Committee were not friendly to town parks. They persecuted them from beginning to end, and never began a series of questions about them without talking of the "vexed question," the "money question," the "very difficult question" of town parks. These gentlemen expressed themselves as unfavourable, as might have been expected, to the Act of 1887. He was not surprised that Mr. T. W. Russell did, because he was very angry when the House of Commons in 1887 adopted the section which their Lordships had sent down. Mr. Russell was a great advocate of temperance—in everything except the use of language. [*Laughter.*] For his own part he was rather fond of strong language, especially when it meant nothing. Mr. Russell declared in the House of Commons that if this section and another which they sent down with it were adopted, there would be a blaze in Ulster which would not be put out for a long time. The result was that there was not blaze enough to light a farthing candle. Let him tell their Lordships how the remnants of Mr. Morley's Committee went on after the most sensible members had left it, because they thought the proceedings of that Committee were not exactly in accordance with their opinions of fairness. The Committee in their Report made some very disparaging remarks on the Land Act of 1887. They said that it had given rise to further litigation, and then they came to this passage, which, he must say, was delightful reading to him. They said they had "spent some time in trying to reconcile the various decisions." It was rather the practice when he was a young man for Judges to employ themselves on that very futile operation, but for half-a-dozen intelligent laymen to spend much time in trying to reconcile the decisions of the Courts of Law seemed to be absolutely absurd. He did not forget there were some lawyers among the remnants of that Committee. There was his learned Friend Sir Robert Reid, but he was a wise man, and, so far as he could see, took very little interest in the proceedings of the Committee. He was not there half the time or anything like it, and was not there when this wonderful paragraph got inserted in the Report. He also did not forget that there was Mr. Healy, who was an extremely acute and able lawyer, but a deal too wise, he thought, to spend his days in a pastime of that sort. Besides, he was not by any means sure that Mr. Healy would consider it his mission to reconcile differences of any sort, either in decisions of law or in the section of the party to which he belonged. That being so he wanted to know what it all meant? It was rather hard to find words to protect *bonâ fide* farmers and exclude other people, but their Lordships in 1887 were successful. The Government now proposed to add words to the effect that in the construction of the 9th section of the Act of 1887 the word "agricultural" should be construed to mean agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral. There were some people in that House, and he believed the noble Marquis was one, who objected to one word, which had a definite and known meaning in English, being declared by Parliament to mean something quite different. Why the Government should declare that agricultural meant pastoral he could not conceive. If the Government had any meaning at all in view, surely they could put it in ordinary English. The words partly agricultural and partly pastoral had no meaning, because every agricultural farm had grassland or pastoral land within it. It did not lose the character of an agricultural farm because part of it was in grass. They had had discussions that night about pastoral holdings, and he hoped he might be fortunate enough to learn what an ordinary pastoral farm of one or two acres was. He did not believe there was such a thing in Ireland. Fortunately or unfortunately for Ireland, agricultural farms were of all sizes. They had large farms, and farms not much above one acre or two acres. They had agricultural farms down to the smallest parcel of ground that a *bonâ fide* farmer could cultivate, but they never heard in Ireland of an ordinary pastoral farm of two acres. The thing was absurd. It was for a person occupying a piece of ground of that sort, and for such a person only, that this clause was inserted. The framers of the clause had done what they had sometimes to do in rating cases, they had constructed what might be called a hypothetical tenant who lived in a a town, who had all the pleasures of a town, without anything else to do but occupy an acre or two of land outside where he kept a cow. Was there such a person? In nature or reason was it possible to find a man who lived without any occupation at all, except looking over a gate and watching a cow feeding on the grass? He did not think such a person was to be found, or that, if found, he would be a very desirable person. He thought he would be a man who would spend most of his time, when not looking at the cow, in the public-house, and he was quite certain, if their Lordships gave him the fee-simple of that farm, or more than the fee-simple of it, by admitting him to the Land Courts, the greater part of the purchase money would find its way into the pockets of the publican. He had looked at the evidence given before Mr. Morley's Committee in order to see whether there was any such person, and in the whole course of the evidence he had not been able to find one. It seemed to him the Act of 1887 provided for everybody who ought to be provided for. They would no doubt learn from the Lord Chancellor of Ireland where the particular cases were that this clause in the Bill was intended to provide for. He had searched everywhere to find such an instance, and he was bound to say he could not find a trace of it. This was, it seemed to him, a policy of attempting to tinker with a thing that had been settled to the satisfaction of everybody but those persons, of course, who desired agitation, and he implored their Lordships to strike out this clause.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE said he would merely state as clearly as he could what were the reasons which had led the Government to include this clause in the Bill. The noble and learned Lord told the House that a town park within the meaning of the Act had to fulfil three conditions—(1) that of proximity to a town or village; (2) that it must have increased value as accommodation land; and (3) that the occupier should be resident in the town or village or in the suburbs in 1881. Then came the Land Act in 1887, which extended the definition given by the earlier Act, and Clause 9 of that Act admitted to the benefits of a fair rent any holding which, although complying with the above conditions, was used as an ordinary agricultural farm, and with the other condition if it could be so admitted without injury to the development of the town. The question that arose was, what was the intention of the word "agricultural" in that Clause 9. He believed it was the case that it was interpreted by the Land Commission as meaning an ordinary farm—that was equivalent to what, in the language of the Land Acts, was described as a farm agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral. The Court of Appeal held that the word "agricultural" was to be interpreted in the much more restricted sense, that an agricultural farm was to be held to be not an ordinary agricultural farm in the sense of the Land Acts, but a tillage farm. What had the result of that been? It was that a holding which, in other respects, fulfilled the conditions of a town park—a holding that was within what might for the sake of convenience be described as the town park zone—and was held by a *bonâ fide* farmer living in the town and used principally as a dairy farm or for grazing, was excluded from a fair rent. That distinction seemed to them an unreasonable one. Such tenants, if residing elsewhere, could go into Court and get a fair rent fixed, and the Government were unable to see why they should be, because they were within the town park zone, excluded from the benefits of a fair rent. There was one very important point to which he should like to call their Lordships' special attention. That was that, under the amended clause they proposed to introduce, the tenant could not be admitted to Court on an application for a fair rent if it could be shown that the land was necessary for the development of the town or for the accommodation of its inhabitants. That was a very important safeguard, which would be maintained in their clause, and with that safeguard he confessed he failed to see why there should be any serious objection to the clause which they had proposed. ["Hear, hear!"]

*Lord MACNAGHTEN said it was very desirable that Parliament should lay down that that was the principal object in preserving town parks, but in an individual case the noble Marquess would readily believe that it was little or no protection whatever. He was sorry to see that the noble Marquess, in his attempt to construe an Act of Parliament, followed exactly the line which the Chief Commissioner and the Sub-Commissioner followed. In construing that Act, the noble Marquess struck out the most important word of the compound expression by which their Lordships pointed that these were to be reserved for *bonâ fide* farmers. If he treated language in that way when he proposed to construe it, he could not wonder that the noble Marquess arrived at the same conclusion as Mr. Justice Bewley—a conclusion reprobated by the Court of Appeal in very clear and distinct language. The noble Marquess pointed out that this definition excluded *bonâ fide* farmers from going into Court and getting their rents settled. Was there the slightest trace of any such exclusion? He had hoped the noble Marquess would have told him exactly the sort of person he wanted to bring in, but here again they were called upon to act in the dark and to tinker with settled Acts of Parliament on the belief of the noble Marquess and the other Members of the Cabinet.

Lord HERSCHELL said his noble and learned Friend's argument assumed that the judgment of the Court of Appeal was right and that Mr. Justice Bewley was wrong in saying that land held as an ordinary agricultural farm under the Act of 1877 was necessarily confined to a farm held for tillage purposes only, and that the words could not apply properly to a farm that was held for tillage and pasturage purposes.

*Lord MACNAGHTEN: I did not say anything of the kind. The noble Lord was not present when my argument was addressed to the House, and I do not wonder that he has not got an accurate notion of it.

Lord HERSCHELL said he heard his noble and learned Friend's speech just now, and he understood from him distinctly that that was the distinction that was drawn in the Court of Appeal, and that that was the ground upon which they reversed Mr. Justice Bewley.

*Lord MACNAGHTEN said they let Mr. Justice Bewley down very easily because they said he had not heard the argument.

Lord HERSCHELL said that might be so, but their letting down Mr. Justice Bewley easily did not touch what was the point they were now discussing. He understood the question that arose was the proper construction of the words "an ordinary agricultural farm." The clause that was now objected to was one which said "agricultural shall be construed to mean agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral." His noble and learned Friend proposed to leave out that clause, and the effect of that omission would be to assert that a farm which was partly agricultural and partly pastoral was not an ordinary agricultural farm.

*Lord MACNAGHTEN said he endeavoured to explain that that was not so.

Lord HERSCHELL said that if he was wrong as to the effect, he did not understand why his noble and learned Friend was so eager to omit the clause.

*Lord MACNAGHTEN said his noble and learned Friend would have heard him give the reason had he been present.

Lord HERSCHELL said that no doubt he was deprived of the advantage of hearing his noble Friend's speech, but he had got Clause 5 and he had got the Amendment, and he could see what the effect of the Amendment would be.

*Lord MACNAGHTEN said his noble Friend had not followed his argument.

*Lord HERSCHELL was not dealing with the argument, but with the clause and the Amendment.

*Lord MACNAGHTEN said he stated that the clause was very innocent to look at, but it required some knowledge of the Act, which he did not think his noble Friend possessed, to see the hidden meaning of it.

Lord HERSCHELL said it was difficult to deal with the hidden meaning, and he was only dealing with the obvious and natural and ordinary meaning of the clause. As regarded knowledge of the Act, he doubted whether any noble Lord had more knowledge of the Act of 1881 than he had. He could not see that the clause would do more than provide that an ordinary agricultural farm should include a farm which was not of tillage but was partly agricultural and partly pastoral. If that be the effect, was there anything wrong?

*Lord MACNAGHTEN explained that, before a thing was a town park at all, it must be either agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural or partly pastoral. That being the general definition, and the whole of the town parks coming under that definition, they must be agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural or partly pastoral, and then came the town parks section and took the words out. His noble Friend proposed at the end of the clause to put the words back again. The only person the Amendment could bring in was a person who was not a *bonâ-fide* farmer, and the intention of the House was that a *bonâ-fide* farmer, though holding a town park, should be admitted.

The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND asked if it would surprise their Lordships to hear that this clause passed the House of Commons *nemine contradicente*. Nay, more, when a wider clause dealing with town parks was under the notice of the House of Commons his friend, Mr. Carson, picked out this particular part of it as being the part of the clause that he hoped would pass unanimously, because it was to cure what was regarded as a *casus omissus* by some people in Ireland. He trusted their Lordships would not assent to the proposition of his noble and learned Friend. To accept the Amendment would be an unwise and retrograde step in legislation.

*Lord MACNAGHTEN said he had a letter from Mr. Carson in which that gentleman said:—

> "When I said in the House of Commons I had no objection to the word agricultural in the town parks section of the Act of 1887 being held to include pastoral, I was quite under the impression that the word pastoral had been omitted from the Act of 1887 by an oversight. The matter arose in the House without any notice. I have, however, now looked into the matter, and I think it is quite clear that in 1887, when the Legislature were admitting ordinary agricultural holdings, it was purposely intended to exclude grazing fields near the towns, and for this reason pastoral was omitted. I fear, if the Bill now before the House of Lords was not altered, it will in effect destroy the last remnant of town parks, and cause great inconvenience to those in the towns who require the pasture fields most frequently in connection with their business."

He (Lord Macnaghten) read that letter in answer to what he would not call the sneer of his noble and learned Friend, but something approaching to a sneer.

The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND: I repudiate that, I used it as a perfectly legitimate argument. It was said in my presence that this was a part of the Bill that was non-contentious.

*Lord MACNAGHTEN: It was in the early hours of the morning. [*Laughter.*]

The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND: I heard it at seven o'clock, before dinner. [*Laughter.*]

The Committee divided on the Question that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill:—

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Clause 5 accordingly struck out.

Clause 6,—

EXCLUSION BY SUB-LETTING OF HOLDING.

(1.) For the purpose of the Land Law Acts the tenant of a holding shall be deemed to be in *bona fide* occupation thereof notwithstanding—

(*a*) that any dwelling-house on the holding, not being the dwelling in which the tenant for the time being resides, and not having been erected by the tenant in breach of his contract condition, is sub-let to or in the occupation of another person; or

(*b*) that any other part of the holding is otherwise than in breach of the contract of tenancy, or of a statutory condition, sub-let to or in the occupation of another person—if in the estimation of the Court a part not less than seven-eights or thereabouts in value of the holding, excluding from such value the value of any buildings erected by the tenant, remains in the *bona fide* occupation of the tenant; and if the sub-letting was made before the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, or was substantially in substitution for a letting existing at that date;

Provided that—

(i) for the purpose of the foregoing provisions of this section, a breach of the contract of tenancy shall not be deemed to have taken place if the landlord waived such breach;

(ii) the foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply unless the Court think it reasonable to entertain the application having regard to the acreage of the holding and to any other matter which they think should be taken into consideration, and the Court may entertain the application notwithstanding that any such house or part of a holding is occupied by a person to whom it has been sub-let in contravention of Section two of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881.

(2.) Where a part of the property held under one demise is sub-let, and the property was let to the tenant subject to the tenancy of some other person in the part sub-let, the Court may, in any case to which Sub-section one of this section does not apply, direct that the part so sub-let shall thenceforth be, or if it is an incorporeal hereditament, be treated as, a separate holding, and (unless the application to the Court is made on the expiration of a lease) that same shall be held during the continuance of the tenancy at such rent as the Court determine to be the proper proportion of the rent reserved by the demise, and the Court may fix a fair rent for the remainder of the property held under the demise, and the Land Law Acts as amended by this Act shall apply to that remainder, as if it were a separate holding;

Provided that, if the landlord so elect, the Court shall, in any case to which this subsection applies, order that the tenant of the part so sub-let shall be the tenant of such landlord as his immediate landlord.

(3.) The sub-letting of any such dwelling-house as is referred to in Sub-section one (*a*) of this section during the continuance of a statutory term or after its expiration shall not be deemed to be a breach of any statutory condition, nor shall the Second section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, apply to any such sub-letting, whether made before or after the passing of this Act.

The Earl of ARRAN said that he would withdraw the Amendments to Clause 6 standing in his name, as a point had arisen in reference to town parks, which he confessed he did not understand. He would bring the matter up on the Report Stage.

Viscount de VESCI moved in Paragraph (*b*) Sub-section (1) to leave out the words—

"if in the estimation of the Court a part not less than seven-eighths or thereabouts in value of the holding, excluding from such value the value of any buildings erected by the tenant, remains in the *bonâ fide* occupation of the tenant; and if"

The noble Lord said that his object was to secure, if possible, that there should be no contravention of the object of the Act of 1881, which provided that there should be no sub-letting without the permission of the landlord in writing. That Act provided also that sub-letting might be permitted in so far as it was for the use of labourers *bonâ fide* employed or required for the cultivation of a holding, and there was a further provision that there should be no trivial sub-letting. He should be very glad if the noble Marquess would explain how they arrived at the rather arbitrary distinction of value. He thought they would agree with him that one acre plots were amply sufficient for the purposes of sub-letting. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would accept his Amendment.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE said that there was an objection to laying down a hard and fast rule as to sub-letting, and he should prefer to leave the matter, as it was dealt with in the second proviso at the foot of the page, under which the Court was not to permit sub-letting unless it thinks that it was reasonable, having regard to the acreage of the holding. That appeared to be an intimation to the Court that the extent of the sub-letting was to be regulated by the particular circumstances of the case.

Lord de VESCI said that he wished to remind the noble Marquess that under the Act of 1887, sub-letting was only to be permitted for the accommodation of the labourers on the holding. That Act did not contemplate the sub-letting of 10 acres out of a farm of 80 acres. At all events no single sub-letting ought to exceed an acre in extent.

Amendment agreed to.

Lord de VESCI moved in Paragraph (*b*) Sub-section (1), after "1887, or," to insert the words "if it."

Amendment agreed to.

Lord de VESCI moved in the end of Paragraph (*b*) Sub-section (1), after the word "date" to insert the words

"provided that the amount of land so sub-let shall not exceed one-eighth of the holding, nor one statute acre for each house or allotment, nor five acres in the aggregate."

Amendment agreed to.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN moved to insert an Amendment providing that the receipt of rent by a landlord after a sub-letting should not be deemed consent to the sub-letting.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 6, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7,—

JUDICIAL RENT MAY BE FIXED WHERE CONTRACT PROVIDES FOR RESUMPTION OF HOLDING BY THE LANDLORD.

Where any holding is held under a contract of tenancy, empowering the landlord to resume the whole or any part thereof for the purpose of building or planting, a judicial rent may be fixed in respect thereof, without prejudice to the right of the landlord to resume possession at any time for the *bona fide* purposes aforesaid, upon the terms contained in the said contract of tenancy, or, if no terms are contained therein, upon the terms that the rent of the holding be proportionately abated.

Clause 7 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8,—

TURBARY AND OTHER PROFITS, EASEMENTS AND PRIVILEGES.

Where, on an application to fix the fair rent for a holding, it is proved to the Court that the tenant of the holding, by virtue of his tenancy, has, by the permission of the landlord, whether with or without payment, been accustomed to exercise any profit *a prendre*, easement, privilege of turbary, or other privilege over land belonging to the landlord, and it appears to be necessary for the reasonable enjoyment of the holding that he should not be deprived of what he has so exercised, and that the interests of the landlord in portions of his estate other than that in which the said profit *a prendre*, easement or privilege is to be exercised, will not be thereby injuriously affected, the Court may, after giving the landlord and tenant of the holding and any tenant of the land an opportunity of being heard, make an order for securing the profit *a prendre*, easement or privilege to the tenant of the holding, upon such terms, as to rent or otherwise, and in such manner as the Court think just, and such order shall be binding on all estates and interests in the said land.

*THE EARL OF BELMORE moved to leave out Clause 8. There were parts of Ireland where there were no turf bogs; but, on the other hand, there were large districts of the country where turf bogs were numerous, and where tenants and landlords alike had to depend in a large measure upon them for their fuel. Therefore the question of turbary was very important. The effects of the clause would be to turn the cutting of turf, which was now a matter of privilege enjoyed by the tenant without any payment at all, or with some moderate payment, into an absolute right, and to deprive the owners of the bogs of the control of the bogs. The question of turbary was one of the most difficult and troublesome that landlords or agents had to deal with, and was often the cause of very expensive litigation between tenants. With regard to what Lord Lansdowne had said, he had never personally known of a case in which a landlord whose rent had been reduced indemnifying himself by raising the price of turf to his tenants. As to the effect of the clause on the purchase and sale of land to tenants, he had generally arranged that when a tenant had been buying his estate he should have a certain quantity of bog thrown in in proportion to the amount of rent, and if he wanted more he must buy it. There was nothing about which tenants were more inclined to quarrel than turf bogs. On his estate two adjoining farmers wanted to buy their farms, but each claimed the same piece of bog, and as they could not settle the difference, the agreement to purchase their farms had never been signed, although the matter arose a good while ago. He believed he had said enough as regarded turf bogs to show that it would not be desirable to deprive the landlord of the right to manage his own turf bogs. County Court Judge Waters, who had not much sympathy with landlords, in an action at Manor Hamilton regarding the cutting of turf bogs, gave a poor man a decree for £5 compensation when he had lost his turf by a neighbour claiming an exclusive right over the landlord's bog; and he said he hoped the time would never come when the landlords would be unable to manage their own bogs. He believed that what he had said justified him in moving the omission of the clause, because he did no see that they were in a position to amend it in a satisfactory way. In a different state of circumstances another proposal might be made. If they had a Board of Agriculture in Ireland a scheme might be arranged by which the board might acquire turf bogs and manage them by means of a local committee. Possibly that power might be extended to purchasing turf bogs on voluntary lines from the landlords, who often had much more of it than the required, and which might be worked for the benefit of the neighbourhood. He thought it would be much wiser to wait until the Board of Agriculture—which they were told was to be established—was in operation, when the matter could be considered carefully and not in a hurry as would be the case by passing this clause, which might also tie their hands from possibly doing something in the near future, which might otherwise be done. He begged to move the omission of the clause.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE observed that many of the provisions of this Bill had been severely criticised, but he did not think any one of its clauses had found greater disfavour than the one they were now discussing. He had observed that that disfavour had been manifested in the most conspicuous manner by gentlemen connected with the management of Irish estates and familiar with the practical aspects of that management. He was bound to admit that any representations made by them, and backed by their knowledge and experience were entitled to most respectful consideration. He hoped he was not wrong in saying that up to a certain point there was no material difference between them. He thought it would be generally conceded that in many cases the value of these privileges and easements to the tenants was very great, and none of their Lordships would have any wish to see the tenants arbitrarily deprived of the privilege of what they had long enjoyed. (*Cheers.*) He thought they would also be agreed that, when the tenant's rent had been fixed upon the assumption that he was in the enjoyment of a customary privilege of this kind, it would be an act of the grossest injustice to deprive him of that privilege while he remained liable for the rent. ["Hear, hear!"] He dwelt upon that because there was reason to suppose that in a great many cases these privileges had been secured to the tenants by the action of the Courts without, perhaps, a very minute inquiry as to whether, in the strictest sense of the word, the Courts were dealing with a legal right, or a mere customary privilege. He had had a paper put into his hand from a gentleman who had given much attention to these matters, Mr. H. Montgomery, who stated that in fixing the rent of a holding, in connection with which the tenant had hitherto had the privilege of cutting turf on the landlord's bog, the Court had always, at least since 1882, asked the landlord whether he wished to have the rent fixed with or without this privilege. The landlord very often said that he would prefer the rent to be put on the holding without the turf, leaving himself at liberty to deal with the turf by free contract. The tenant was then invited to give evidence of the value he set on the turbary privilege, and on this evidence the Court fixed the rent. It was within his own knowledge that this was not at all an unusual method of proceeding when the Court was dealing with the privilege of cutting turf. Turning to the clause in the Bill he thought their Lordships would admit that, whatever its faults might be, the Government had sought, at all events to the best of their ability, to afford to the landlord in cases of this kind an adequate measure of protection. They proposed to enact that the privilege should not be granted to the tenant as a right unless it could be shown that the exercise of the privilege was essential for the reasonable enjoyment of the holding. They proposed that it should be a condition *sine quâ non* that the exercise of the privilege should not injure the landlord's estate, and finally that the privilege was to be exercised upon terms to be laid down by the Court, which were intended for the protection of the landlord. It was not a new thing that the Court should be called upon to insist upon terms of this kind. There was in the Act of 1881 a clause with reference to the manner in which pastoral and turbary rights were to be exercised by the tenant. That clause laid down that the right might only be exercised, according to the ordinary usages which had prevailed with the expressed or implied consent, amongst the commoners reasonably entitled to exercise the same, and it was beyond doubt that the Courts had been in the habit of insisting upon very strict regulations in the case of tenants having privileges of turf-cutting, or having rights of turf-cutting, or rights of mountain-grazing, and so forth, exercised under the protection of the Act of 1881. The question was whether the protection which they proposed to give to the landlord was sufficient or not. He knew that in the opinion of the noble Lords from Ireland the clause as it stood did not sufficiently safeguard the landlords' rights. Some of the arguments against the clause as it stood seemed to be entitled to very considerable weight. One was that the effect of the clause would be to place a liberal and good landlord, who had been in the habit of granting these customary privileges to his tenants, in a worse position than the narrower and less generous landlord, who had been in the habit of denying those privileges to his tenants. Another was that the clause as it stood might open very wide opportunities for litigation between landlord and tenant, and he was sure every Member of the House felt that the fewer doors that were opened for litigation in Ireland the better. ["Hear, hear!"] Taking these matters into consideration, they had attempted to recast their clause, and the proposal which they would make to their Lordships would be of the following nature. It was a proposal the object of which was to guard the tenant in whose case a rent had been fixed upon the assumption that a customary privilege had been secured to him, from having that customary privilege withdrawn while he was paying rent for it. That, he thought, was an eminently just and reasonable arrangement to make, and he could not believe that any noble Lord was likely to object to it. The words which they would suggest were somewhat to the following effect—that wherever it should appear that a tenant had been accustomed to exercise any profit *a prendre*, easement, or privilege of this kind, and it appeared to be necessary for the reasonable enjoyment of the holding that the tenant should continue to exercise those privileges, the landlord should be required to elect whether he would or would not allow the tenant to exercise as of right during the statutory term, and subject to the same restrictions and conditions as heretofore, that which he had previously exercised by permission. If the landlord consented to allow the tenant to exercise the customary privilege as of right, then that privilege would be secured to the tenant by the order fixing the fair rent during the currency of the statutory term. If, on the other hand, the landlord, on the whole, deemed it inadvisable to secure to the tenant that privilege under those conditions, then he would signify to the effect that the privilege was to be regarded as withdrawn, and the rent would be fixed upon the holding upon the assumption that the tenant was no longer in the enjoyment of that privilege That, of course, left it open to the landlord and tenant to make their own bargain with regard to turf or seaweed, or whatever other privileges might be under discussion. That would, he hoped, commend itself to their Lordships as not an unreasonable attempt to solve the difficulty, and they would bring up a clause to carry out the arrangement he had indicated.

*VISCOUNT POWERSCOURT said that no landlord wished to prevent his tenant cutting turf, but it was a well-known fact that, unless there was some controlling influence to confine the tenants to certain places and to regulate the cutting of bog, there would be endless disputes between the tenants, and a whole mountain would be skinned and rendered absolutely valueless, not only to the landlord but to the tenants. As to other privileges which tenants were to be given, were they to understand that if a landlord allowed a tenant to drive through his place that would give a right of way? He did not know whether the Amendment to the clause would commend itself to the House, but he would certainly vote against the clause.

THE EARL OF MAYO understood that the new clause was intended to take the sting out of the present clause. He spoke for himself, and, he believed, for his friends, when he said it must be clearly laid down that the privileges which the landlord was granting to the tenant were not to be sold or got rid of by the tenant. He had not got an acre of turf bog, but he knew that if the management of such bogs were taken out of the hands of the landlords the most terrible confusion would ensue. There would be a sort of Donnybrook Fair, for the tenants would fight who was to cut this bit and who was to cut that bit. He trusted the noble Marquess would be able to arrange everything satisfactorily. Until, however, they had the new clause before them they could not arrive at any compromise with the Government. In the House of Commons the Chief Secretary had said he did not know what "other privileges" were, but Mr. Atkinson had said they might include the cutting of heather on a turf bog or a grouse moor. When they were in the middle of a grouse drive, would noble Lords like to see a tenant come and cut heather?

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY said he did not wish to intervene in the domestic arrangements of the Government and their supporters, but he was able so far to follow the discussion as to ascertain that the clause was withdrawn and there was a promise of a new clause on report. Surely the time to discuss the clause would be when it was presented. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said what he understood was that it was proposed that there should be a modification of the clause or a new clause, the effect of which would be this—when a tenant went to the Court to have his rent fixed, if he had been in the customary privilege of cutting turf, gathering seaweed, or taking gravel, the landlord would be called upon to say whether he would allow the customary privilege to become a right during the statutory period of 15 years. If he agreed, then the fact would be taken into consideration by the Court in fixing what the fair rent was to be. On the other hand, it was quite optional to the landlord to say that he would not allow this privilege to be converted into a right. He thought the noble Lord opposite did not clearly understand that there was this option.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY said he must stand to his point. ["Hear, hear!"] No doubt the explanation of the noble Earl was satisfactory to himself, but what they wanted was a statement from the Government. ["Hear, hear!"] Were they going to bring up a new clause on Report? Really, in the interests of the expedition of business, he protested against funeral orations over clauses that were dead, or anticipatory discussions on clauses that were to be brought forward. [*Cheers.*]

*LORD MACNAGHTEN did not think that the clause which was foreshadowed would be satisfactory. There was not the slightest evidence that any landlord had attempted to put an extravagant rent on bog. The whole thing was a bogus objection.

THE PRIME MINISTER (The MARQUESS of SALISBURY): Might I reinforce the protest of the noble Earl opposite? It is really a very great waste of time to argue a clause which you have not seen.

*LORD MACNAGHTEN suggested that the best way of meeting the difficulty would be that any tenant who alleged that he had been unfairly treated in this manner should be at liberty, although his rent had been fixed, to go back to the Sub-Commissioners and have his rent revised with regard to that allegation.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said he felt sure the most convenient course was to hand in a new clause that night, which would be circulated, and in the meantime the clause, as it now stood, would be withdrawn. ["Hear, hear!"]

Clause negatived.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Now, I think, the time has come when we may reasonably adjourn till to-morrow.

Debate adjourned.

House resumed; and to be again in Committee To-morrow.

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## COAL MINES REGULATION ACT (1887) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read $3^a$ To-morrow.

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## WORKING MEN'S DWELLINGS BILL [H.L.].

Read $3^a$ (according to Order); Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

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## TRUCK BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment.

Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read $3^a$ To-morrow.

### NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

Considered in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment.

Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

### LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments to be considered on Monday next.

House adjourned at Twenty Minutes past Twelve o'clock till To-morrow, Three o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Thursday, 6th August 1896.*

### *PRIVATE BUSINESS.*

### DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

**Dr. FARQUHARSON** (Aberdeenshire, W.) moved:—

"That, in the case of the Dublin Corporation (re-committed) Bill [H.L.], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited."

Motion agreed to.

***The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for WAR** (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) moved the following Clause:—

SAVING RIGHTS OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

"Notwithstanding anything in this Act, or in any of the Scheduled Acts, or in any agreement, the Secretary of State for War shall be entitled to require that water from the River Vartry be supplied by the Corporation to any barrack or other establishment under his control in the county of Dublin, and the Corporation shall be bound to afford such supply at such price, not exceeding fivepence per thousand gallons, as shall be mutually agreed on between the Corporation and the Secretary of State for War: Provided that nothing in this Act shall be deemed to prevent the Secretary of State for War from obtaining a supply of water from any Township Commissioners within whose district any such barrack or other establishment under his control may be situate."

**Mr. T. M. HEALY** (Louth, N.) asked whether the War Office would give an undertaking not to go to any townships which were already supplied by the Dublin Corporation with water, so as to make a contract with them over the heads of the Corporation? He believed that this clause somewhat contravened the Standing Orders; and he hoped the Government would use their good offices to secure the suspension of the Standing Orders in the House of Lords.

**Mr. BRODRICK** said that the Government would consider any steps which might be necessary to secure the Bill passing the House of Lords. He thought it obvious that the other condition mentioned by the hon. Gentleman would be acceptable to the War Office.

Clause read a First and Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

***Mr. SPEAKER**: The next new clause, standing in the name of the hon. Member for South Belfast, is out of order. The clause runs:—

Part III., after Clause 15, insert the following clause:—

WOMEN NOT TO BE DISQUALIFIED ON ACCOUNT OF SEX.

Any person who, but for her sex, would be entitled to be placed on the Parliamentary Register of Electors shall be entitled to be placed on the Burgess Roll in respect of any qualification which enables male persons to vote for an alderman or councillor of the city; and the Irish Registration Acts shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to include women.

It is not competent for the hon. Member to move any clause on Report which would have required an Instruction if it were to be considered in Committee. This clause would certainly have required an Instruction. For the same reason the following clause, in the name of the hon. Member for the College Green Division (Mr. Carew), is out of order:—

### EXTENSION OF LOCAL OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT.

The provisions of the Local Officers' Superannuation (Ireland) Act, 1869, are hereby, in their application to the Corporation, extended so as to authorise the Corporation to grant (subject to the provisions of that Act) superannuation allowances to artisans, labourers and others in the service of the Corporation: Provided that no such artisan, labourer or servant shall be eligible on any ground for the grant of an allowance under this section unless he shall have been in the uninterrupted service of the Corporation for at least twenty years, and shall have become incapable of further serving the Corporation by reason of permanent infirmity of mind or body or of old age, or shall have been disabled by accident occasioned without his own default while actually engaged in work for the Corporation. And no artisan, labourer or servant shall be entitled to such allowance on the ground of age unless he shall have attained the age of sixty years.

That clause is quite outside the Instruction which was moved, as well as outside the Bill.

**Mr. J. J. CLANCY** (Dublin Co., N.) moved, after Clause 25, to insert the following clause:—

### APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT OF COURT OF CONSCIENCE.

The acting President of the Court of Conscience of the City of Dublin shall continue to hold office without appointment, and such office of President of the Court of Conscience shall be deemed to be held during good behaviour from the Corporation, and future presidents of the said court shall be elected and appointed by the Corporation.

**Mr. T. HARRINGTON** said he believed it was a perverse use of private legislation that a question touching in no way the purpose or object with which the Bill was originally introduced should be allowed to be imported into the Bill. Such a course was calculated to deter corporations from coming to this House in redress of grievances. The gentleman on whom it was proposed to confer a permanent appointment was a member of his election committee, and an influential supporter of his, but all the same he deemed it to be his duty to the citizens of Dublin, as well as to the honour of the House, to oppose the Motion.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Clause be read a Second time."

The House proceeded to a Division.

**Mr. Harrington** was appointed a Teller for the Noes, but no Member being willing to act as the second Teller, Mr. Speaker declared that the Ayes had it.

Clause read a Second time, and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8,—

### PRICE OF EXCESS OR SURPLUS WATER.

The price for excess or surplus water supplied to the Commissioners of any of the townships shall be threepence-halfpenny per thousand gallons, and in and for the purposes of this Act the expression "excess or surplus water" means and includes in the case of each township all water supplied in excess of a quantity of water equal to twenty gallons per head per day for the population of the townships ascertained as in this Act provided.

**Mr. CLANCY** moved, at the end of the clause, after the word "provided," to insert:—

"Provided always that nothing in this Act contained shall be deemed to interfere with the existing contracts between the Corporation and the Commissioners of the new Kilmainham township."

His object was to exempt Kilmainham township from the provisions of Clause 8, and he made the Motion on very distinct grounds. In the first place, he understood there were contracts existing between the Corporation and Kilmainham township for the supply of water. He had never heard that the Corporation complained of the terms of those contracts, nor yet of the way in which the township fulfilled them. That being so, it was rather hard that all those contracts should be summarily terminated by the carrying of this Bill. He believed he was right in saying that Kilmainham township was almost the only township, if not the only one, to which the Corporation supplied water, which had always paid for its excess of supply without a murmur, and without being compelled to do so by law. There was a stronger reason for omitting the Kilmainham township. He was told, on the authority of the solicitor to the Kilmainham township, that there was a distinct agreement between Kilmainham and the Corporation that the latter should be omitted from the provisions of the Bill. Kilmainham so far acted on the understanding that they were not represented on the Committee of the House of Lords, before whom the Bill was thrashed out. That alone furnished a conclusive case why Kilmainham should be excluded from the provisions of this clause.

Mr. T. M. HEALY hoped the Chairman of Committees would advise the House against the acceptance of this Amendment. It raised exactly the same question in principle that had been thrashed out in Committee upstairs with regard to Kingstown and other townships. The case of Kingstown indeed rested not on mere contract, but upon statute; yet the Committee upstairs found it necessary to agree with the views of the Corporation that all these matters should be revised. It would be most unfair, seeing the Corporation had not an opportunity of considering the matter, to insert the Amendment.

*The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS (Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith) said that the Motion of the hon. Member for North Dublin had come upon him by surprise, but he had made himself acquainted with the question as far as he was able. The Committee had gone fully into the subject, and they had given their decision. The hon. Member was now seeking to upset a decision come to after full inquiry, and, in accordance with the principles which he had always followed, he thought it would be inadvisable to disturb the arrangement made. He should therefore vote against the Amendment of the hon. Member, and would advise the House to follow the same course.

Mr. HARRINGTON hoped that the House would not go back upon the decision of the Committee, which had been arrived at after full discussion.

Mr. T. SKEWES-COX (Surrey, Kingston) hoped that the House would support the Committee. The proposed clause had been before the Committee and was seriously considered in all its bearings. The Committee, after due deliberation, came to the conclusion to allow the Dublin Corporation to enter into the new arrangements as proposed by the Bill.

Mr. W. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) appealed to his hon. Friend to withdraw the clause.

Clause negatived.

Clause 15,—

FUTURE QUALIFICATION OF BURGESSES.

From and after the twenty-fifth day of November one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six the persons entitled to be enrolled as burgesses of the city shall, in addition to all other persons at present otherwise qualified, include all persons entitled to have their names included in the Parliamentary register of electors, omitting freeholders, leaseholders, freemen, lodgers, and persons qualified to appear on such register in respect of premises not situate within the municipal boundary.

Clause 16,—

PRESERVATION OF EXISTING QUALIFICATIONS.

(1) All persons not entitled to have their names included in the said Parliamentary Register but who if this Act had not passed would have been entitled to be enrolled as burgesses shall notwithstanding anything in this Act contained be also entitled to be enrolled as burgesses of the city.

(2) The Town Clerk shall in every year after the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six prepare, print, and publish a list of persons so entitled in the same manner and at the same time as in the case of the list of Parliamentary voters.

(3) Any person so entitled and whose name is omitted from such list of burgesses may within the same time as in the case of claims of Parliamentary voters lodge with the Town Clerk a claim to be enrolled of a burgess of the city in like manner as claims to be enrolled as a burgess are now lodged and made, and the Town Clerk shall in every year print and publish such list of claimants along with the lists of Parliamentary claimants.

(4) Such lists shall be revised with the lists of Parliamentary voters in like manner in all respects as if they formed portion thereof, and the Municipal Corporation (Ireland) Acts 1840 to 1888 shall not apply thereto, and instead thereof the Parliamentary Registration Acts shall apply thereto including the provision thereof as to appeals from the decision of the Revising Barrister.

Clause 17,—

REVISING BARRISTER TO SIGN LISTS.

(1) At the conclusion of the revision of the list of Parliamentary voters in every year after the year one thousand eight hundred and

ninety-six the Revising Barristers shall prepare and sign one copy of the revised lists omitting therefrom the names of all persons qualified as freeholders, leaseholders, freemen or lodgers or in respect of premises not within the municipal boundary: Provided that where a person qualified as a freeholder, leaseholder or freeman is also qualified as a rated occupier or inhabitant householder in respect of premises within the municipal boundary, and the name of such person is retained on the Parliamentary Register as a freeholder, leaseholder or freeman, the name of such person shall be retained as a rated occupier or inhabitant householder as the case may be in the said copy to be prepared and signed as aforesaid.

(2) The Revising Barristers shall also sign the said list referred to in Clause 16 of this Act as revised by them.

Clause 18,—

### LISTS TO BE DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK.

The said copy of the revised lists shall be delivered by the Revising Barristers to the Town Clerk, and shall be and be deemed to be the Burgess Roll of the burgesses of the city entitled to vote at elections of Aldermen and Councillors of the city, and the same shall be printed by the Town Clerk, and shall for all purposes whatsoever be deemed to be substituted for the list of burgesses referred to in the forty-seventh section of the Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Act 1840.

Mr. HARRINGTON, in moving to leave out Clauses 15 to 18 inclusive, said that if he succeeded in his Motion nearly the whole of Part III. of the Bill would disappear. He maintained that the Committee had gone beyond the instructions given by the House. As introduced, the Bill was an extremely simple and short proposal, merely asking the right to carry out by law an agreement with the various townships of Dublin, to charge them for the excess of water taken. Originally, one of his colleagues in the representation of Dublin, wishing to give their constituencies a franchise in the widest sense, presented at the Table an Instruction for the extension of the franchise. That Instruction, he was informed, was ruled out of order, and he believed properly so. But the Instruction which was refused from the hon. Member for the St. Patrick's Division seemed to have been accepted afterwards when moved by the hon. Member for North Louth. Following on that Instruction was a second Instruction, wide in its scope and general in its terms, including almost every officer of the Corporation. The Instruction gave power to make provision for an amendment of the law as to the election and tenure of office of aldermen, councillors, and assessors, and as to the appointment and tenure of office of any officers annually elected by the Corporation, or appointed by any persons nominated by the Corporation. This was so wide in character, so general in its terms, and far-reaching, that it would be perfectly possible for the Committee upstairs to consider whether the chaplain whom the Lord Mayor appointed, his secretary or coachman might not be made permanent officers of the Corporation. As a matter of fact, one of the officers who obtained a permanent appointment under that Instruction had no connection in an official capacity with the Corporation.

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked whether the hon. Member was speaking on the omission of Clause 15 or the question to omit Part III.?

*Mr. SPEAKER said the hon. Member would not be in order unless he was moving the omission of Part III. generally.

Mr. HARRINGTON said all the objectionable clauses to which he referred were dependent on the franchise clause. If the House decided to strike out the franchise clause, it would be in a position to deal with the Bill as originally introduced, and it would secure a safe passage elsewhere. No one who had read the observations elsewhere of the Earl of Morley could fail to see——

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Is the hon. Member in order in discussing the franchise clause?

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not in order in referring to proceedings in another House.

Mr. HARRINGTON said he was following the example of the Leader of the House the other day. If by his Motion he appeared to be restricting the franchise to his own constituents, and if he was supported by his colleagues in the representation of the city, it was not because they had any fear of the extension, but because he believed that this system of engrafting the franchise on private Bills was calculated to deter persons coming forward in the promotion of private Bills. He believed it to be a vicious principle, and, if persevered in with regard to this Bill, it would bring it to ruin elsewhere. The franchise provisions which had been drafted in connection with this Bill were rude and clumsy. They were absolutely unworkable. The promoters of this Bill had, in a series of rough-and-ready clauses, thrown together different franchises. There was a general provision that the registration law for Parliamentary purposes should apply also in respect of municipal purposes in Dublin. But rough-and-ready clauses like these could not effect the object for which they were intended. As to Sub-section 4 of Section 16, the whole registration law of 50 years had been crammed into it. The sub-section would take away from the Court of Queen's Bench the jurisdiction which it at present exercised in restoring to the Burgess Roll burgesses whose names had been wrongfully struck off. Under the schedules of the Parliamentary Registration Acts there were forms of objection to names proposed to be put on the Parliamentary Roll. These same forms were supposed to be capable of being used under the rough-and-ready clauses of this Bill in the case of claimants to the municipal vote. They would not, however, be really applicable, and it would be impossible to sustain objections in the Revision Courts. He was not opposed to a proper extension of the franchise, but he objected to these clauses because they were offensive to the municipality and burgesses of Dublin, who had not been given an opportunity of pronouncing an opinion upon them. He might be told that the general body of the citizens were in favour of this change, but he maintained that it was to those who were already in possession of the municipal franchise that the right belonged of pronouncing judgment upon a Bill of this kind. He appealed to the House to refuse to assent to proposals of this kind in a private Bill.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that in the case of Derry, the House had already this year extended, by means of a private Bill, the municipal franchise to those who possessed the Parliamentary vote. The Derry Improvement Bill had now received the sanction of the House of Lords. What the Bill before the House provided was that all persons within the municipal area of Dublin who possessed the Parliamentary franchise should also enjoy the municipal franchise, certain freeholders and leaseholders in the county of the city of Dublin, but not in the city *simplicites*, being excluded. His hon. Friend said that there would be great difficulty in making up the Municipal and Parliamentary Roll, but at this hour the Parliamentary and municipal franchise lists were made up together in England, and there was no difficulty about the matter. Last year that practice was embodied in a Bill that passed through the House of Commons, and his hon. Friend who was on the Grand Committee who considered that Bill took no objection to the franchise, the only objection raised by him being that the Measure would extend the franchise to women. The hon. Member's argument that this Bill must cause complications and difficulties seemed, therefore, to be disposed of. His proposal was simply to extend the English law to the case of Dublin, so as to give the people of Dublin the same advantages as the people of England enjoyed. There were precedents for legislating in this way in a private Bill. In 1883 the same thing was done in the Rathmines Bill; and in 1893 in the Blackrock Drainage Bill, and this Session franchise clauses had been inserted in private Bills concerning Derry, Belfast, Drogheda, and Waterford. The real reason of his hon. and learned Friend's objection to the franchise clauses of the present Bill was that they provided for a minority representation. At present the Conservatives held 11 seats out of 60 on the Dublin Corporation, while under this Bill they would have 20 out of 60 seats. That was the sole objection which existed to his franchise clause. There was nothing better for preventing a Corporation from falling into mismanagement than the existence of a good stout party of opposition.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Isle of Thanet) said he had no wish to go into the merits of the Bill, but what he thought the House ought to consider was whether it was convenient to the House at large or calculated to contribute to the good conduct of the business of the House that these controversial matters affecting the political franchise should be introduced into private Bills. In days gone by all private Bills were dealt with on the floor of the House, but that was found to be an intolerable nuisance, and the practice was abolished, and the principle of referring private Bills to Committees upstairs was established. There was no principle more strongly insisted on in the composition of Private Bill Committees, than that, as far as possible, the subjects that came before them should be approached in a judicial spirit and apart from all political feeling. The House would at once see that if questions involving keen political contests were to be relegated to Committees upstairs, those Committees would not be allowed to decide such questions. They were sure to be reopened in the Whole House, and the House could not fail to see the grave inconvenience of such a practice. The result of bringing such matters on to the floor of the House was that they were no longer dealt with in a judicial spirit. The question involved in the provisions now under discussion had not been dealt with by Parliament in its strict sense, and therefore hon. Members brought these provisions forward in private Bills as a substitute for the consideration of the whole question by Parliament; and thus, by a retrogade step, the consideration of private Bills was being brought back to the floor of the House. To show there was no very great accord on this subject, they had Members representing the various sections of the Irish Party differing upon it. He hoped the House would put its foot down and reject these clauses, by way of emphasising its intention not to allow private Bill legislation to be mixed up with political matters of this kind.

MR. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that when the right hon. Gentleman opposite complained of these clauses being introduced into a private Bill, he must have forgotten the history of this question in Parliament. The Irish Members regretted very much that it should be necessary to introduce proposals in a private Bill. But who was to blame? The blame rested with Parliament, which had shown itself incapable or unwilling to deal with the question. If the House of Lords had allowed the House of Commons to assimilate the law in this respect in Ireland to that in Great Britain, this inconvenient course need not have been adopted. But when the ordinary channels through which justice might be obtained were blocked, it was only natural that hon. Members should have recourse to any means which might offer themselves in order to obtain these privileges for the municipal electors in Ireland. He therefore thought there was no force whatever in the right hon. Gentleman's objection. The right hon. Gentleman had drawn attention to the difference of opinion in the ranks of the Irish Party. That was often the case on private Bills. He himself was opposed to the Motion to omit these franchise clauses. He objected to jerrymandering the city of Dublin, and he objected to an artificial system which was not applied to any other city being applied to the city of Dublin.

MR. W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) rose to support the Motion of the hon. Member for the Louth Division. He had intended to vote for the clause if he had been fortunate enough to introduce his Amendment to give the franchise to women; but as he was not able to do that, he should vote against the clause.

MR. W. FIELD desired to know how it was that this notice of Motion was in order, seeing that a similar notice of Motion that he had put down upon another Bill had been ruled out of order.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is referring to a matter which has nothing to do with this question. The only question before the House is whether Clauses 15 to 18 shall stand part of the Bill.

MR. FIELD repeated that he had been told that a similar notice put down by him was out of order. He was himself in favour of the extension of the franchise, and Clause 15 had his entire approbation; but there were other clauses attached to it which undoubtedly took away the value of the franchise clause. He would appeal to Conservative Members on the opposite Benches, who were finding fault with the course now being taken, to ask the Government to bring in a Bill to equalise the franchise in Ireland with that of England.

MR. J. P. FARRELL said that as a Member of the Committee which considered the Bill in the first instance he desired to explain his position. The hon. Member for the Harbour Division objected to the inclusion of these clauses on the ground that he had not had sufficient notice.

Mr. HARRINGTON: No. Because they were not submitted according to the Standing Orders of this House to a meeting of the citizens of Dublin.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL said he understood the hon. Member to say that the matter was sprung upon the citizens of Dublin. However, if he desired to recede from that position he (Mr. Farrell) did not object. They could discount pretty readily the professions of the hon. Member in favour of extending the franchise in the widest sense when the three clauses which would do so as widely and generally as any other Act could do, were the subjects of the Motion which he now made to the House. He (Mr. Farrell) thought it would be bad treatment on the part of the House towards the first Committee as well as towards the Committee which considered the Bill on the second occasion if the House was now to go back on a decision, which he might say was unanimously arrived at on the second occasion. The position of the hon. Member for the Harbour Division was one that nothing could satisfy. Alone he stood out in opposition to the other Members of the City of Dublin, because on the second occasion at all events it was quite clear that none of them thought fit to put in an appearance before the Committee. The position was quite clear. They had an opportunity of giving to the citizens of Dublin a franchise clause without any extra cost whatever. The hon. member for the Harbour Division spoke of the Bill to be introduced next year, but he had elicited from the Lord Mayor that that was to be an omnibus Bill. Why should objection not be taken to the inclusion of the franchise in that Bill on the same ground as it was taken in the present case. The decision of the Committee after careful consideration ought to be upheld by the House.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said the contention of the hon. Member who had just sat down seemed intensely ridiculous—that because Members of a certain Committee took trouble with the consideration of a Bill therefore the House was to abrogate its function of deciding as to the merits of the Bill. But he had risen for the purpose of making an appeal for his hon. and learned Friend not to press the Motion to a division. The view he took was this—he was strongly in favour, as he believed all sections of Nationalists were, of the extension of the franchise to the bulk of the people, and he did not sympathise at all with the right hon. Member for Thanet in his complaint as to the inconvenience of the course of tacking on this clause to a private Bill. Of course that course was inconvenient. It was almost an improper one, but it had been rendered necessary by the persistent obstinacy of Parliament in refusing to redress a grievance which was admitted by all sections and all parties. Long ago, by universal consent, a Bill ought to have been passed into law assimilating the franchise for municipal purposes in Great Britain and Ireland. That had not been done, and the result had been that they had been forced to take advantage of these illegitimate opportunities, if they liked so to call them, of getting the franchise extended piece-meal to different parts of Ireland. He succeeded on a similar Bill for the city of Waterford in getting the franchise extended, and it would therefore be ridiculous for him to take up the position that an opportunity of this kind should not be seized upon to extend the franchise whenever they could. The position of his hon. and learned Friend was perfectly intelligible. He was in favour of the extension of the franchise, but what he objected to was that the extension of the franchise in this Bill had been coupled with an interference with the mode of election and other matters of that kind, such as there was no precedent for with regard to any of the private Bills in which the franchise had been extended up to the present. In taking up that position his hon. Friend had behind him the overwhelming majority of the citizens of Dublin and therefore he was perfectly justified in his action. On the question of minority representation it would be improper and out of order to say anything at that stage; so far as the principle was concerned and were it extended all over Ireland, he would be the last to say a word against it. His hon. Friend's position was, that he objected to the franchise proposed to be extended in Dublin, being hampered in the particular case of Dublin to the exclusion of the rest of the country by certain clauses providing for minority representation. That was a perfectly plain and intelligible position, but the particular Motion which his hon. Friend had moved was to strike out those clauses which dealt with the extension of the franchise alone. Therefore, he would suggest to his hon. Friend, as he was of the same view as himself with regard to the extension of the franchise, that he should allow these clauses to pass without a Division, and reserve his opposition for the subsequent clauses which dealt with the creation of this artificial mode of election.

MR. HARRINGTON asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 19,—

### ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS TO BE TRIENNIAL.

The election of councillors for the city shall be triennial and at each triennial election each ward shall elect the number of councillors which such ward is entitled to elect at the date of the passing of this Act. The first triennial election shall be holden on the twenty-fifth November one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven and all the existing councillors shall then go out of office. Provided that at the election of the councillors for each ward every voter shall be entitled to vote for two candidates and no more. The councillors elected at each triennial election shall hold office for three years and no longer, but shall be eligible for re-election if then qualified.

Clause 20,—

### ALDERMEN TO BE ELECTED BY GROUPS OF WARDS.

From and after the twenty-fifth day of November one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven the election of aldermen by single wards shall cease and the election of aldermen shall be by five groups of three wards in each group. Each group shall elect three aldermen every six years and such group shall for all purposes connected with such election be deemed to be a ward, and the groups of wards shall be as follows:—

On the north side of the Liffey—

No. 1. North City Ward
North Dock Ward
Mountjoy Ward

No. 2. Arran Quay Ward
Inns Quay Ward
Rotunda Ward

On the south side of the Liffey—

No. 3. Royal Exchange Ward
South Dock Ward
Trinity Ward

No. 4. Fitzwilliam Ward
South City Ward
Wood Quay Ward

No. 5. Mansion House Ward
Merchants' Quay Ward
Ushers' Quay Ward:

Provided that at such election of aldermen every voter may vote for two candidates and no more. The aldermen elected at each such election shall hold office for six years and no longer but shall be eligible for re-election if then qualified:

The first election of aldermen shall take place on the twenty-fifth November one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight and the existing aldermen shall remain in office until the said date. In the case of any casual vacancy in such office of aldermen prior to such date an election to fill such vacancy shall be held in the same manner as before the passing of this Act. On the said twenty-fifth day of November one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight all the then existing aldermen shall go out of office:

Provided always that no person shall be eligible as a candidate for the office of councillor or alderman unless within the time limited for the lodgment of the nomination paper nominating him for election to such office as aforesaid such person shall deposit with the town clerk of the said borough of Dublin the sum of ten pounds towards the expenses of the said election. Provided also that the person or persons who shall be elected a councillor or alderman at any such election as aforesaid shall be entitled to a refund of the sum so lodged and deposited by him.

MR. HARRINGTON moved to omit Clauses 19 and 20, which, he said, dealt with the question of minority representation. He asked Mr. Speaker in putting the question to preserve an Amendment in Clause 20 (after "alderman" to insert "representing the three groups on the southern side of the River Liffey."

*MR. SPEAKER: I will preserve that Amendment.

MR. HARRINGTON said it was not necessary for him, in asking the House to reject these clauses, to occupy its attention at any great length. These clauses raised for the first time in any municipality in Ireland the question of minority representation, and he repeated on behalf of the citizens of Dublin that if minority representation ought to be extended, the extension should include other parts of the country, and they would have no objection to minority representation. But here was a case in which one city was taken, and practically its charter was broken up. An arrangement in force since 1840, which safeguarded the rights of the minority was destroyed by this sub-division of wards, and an artificial system was introduced by grouping.

Mr. T. M. HEALY rose to order. The Amendment of the hon. and learned Member did not include the question of grouping.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Clause 20 has to do with grouping.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that was so, but the Amendment of the hon. Member came in on line 21.

*Mr. SPEAKER said the Motion of the hon. and learned Member was to omit Clauses 19 and 20. He should put the question that the clauses down to line 18 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. HARRINGTON said the proposal of the hon. and learned Member's clause was that the whole of the corporation should go out of office every three years, and the effect was to limit the franchise preventing burgesses in wards where there were three vacancies from voting for more than two. It was the first time the experiment was to be tried in any Irish municipality, and in face of the facts that no opportunity had been given to the citizens of Dublin of considering the proposal, and that it was emphatically condemned by everybody who had spoken on the subject as representing Dublin, he appealed to the House not to force this upon the citizens of Dublin. The hon. and learned Member had no claim to speak in any representative capacity for Dublin, and of all shades of political opinion the hon. and learned Member would be the last the citizens of Dublin would select to speak for them in the House. Having represented the City of Dublin for eleven years, and having the support of two colleagues in the representation of the city, he felt he was not making an unreasonable demand when he asked that an indignity of this kind, which implied that the minority had not been treated fairly, and that the citizens of Dublin could not be intrusted with the franchise which obtained elsewhere, he thought he was not making an unreasonable demand to the House for the rejection of these clauses.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said as regards Dublin this would be an innovation on the present state of the law, but could anyone pretend to deny that it was desirable, when extending the franchise to make this reform? Of course, when new machinery was proposed in any Bill, it was met with the objection that it was novel and would prove unworkable. Such phrases he had himself used, no doubt many times, and naturally, when these hardy annuals sprang from the mouth of his hon. Friend, he was not in the least astonished. There were precedents for the proposal in the clause, and it was recognised in English School Board elections. A precedent existed in Belfast, and by arrangement between the Catholic Bishop and the Town Clerk, Catholic representation was secured in that Orange city. He repudiated the charge of "jerrymandering," there was nothing of the kind in the proposal. The principle of minority representation had existed since 1840, and the passing of the Corporations Act. The gentlemen who arranged the lists were called assessors, and in the appointment of these and the arrangement of the lists regard was had under the Corporations Act for minority representation. This had been in vogue for half a century, with the result that in the City of Derry, in spite of the narrow franchise, the Catholics of Derry were able to return a Nationalist assessor. In dealing with elections of councillors, it was as desirable to have as full a representation of the citizens as possible. True, the outlying townships were Conservative and did not allow Nationalists to sit on their boards, but he hoped to see the city extended, and these boards coalescing and consolidating with Dublin, and then minority representation would be needed for Nationalists, and they would have the benefit of these clauses. It was impossible to secure minority representation without adopting the principle of grouping. Long ago he advocated the principle of minority representation, and more than elsewhere was it desirable to have full representations of opinions in Ireland, and though now he was attacked for proposing an innovation, he felt sure that when it was embodied in the law, and its effects experienced, there would be a demand for its extension to the rest of the country.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said if the hon. and learned Gentleman had taken up the position that he desired to secure the representation of the minority as it was required in Belfast, his position would be tenable and his argument unanswerable. In Belfast there was a large Catholic population without representation on the Corporation, and if in Dublin there was a large and influential Protestant population without representation the position of the hon. Member would be impregnable. But the fact was, and it had been repeatedly pointed out in Debate on the Belfast Bill, the Protestant and Unionist minority were represented on the corporation to a larger extent than their numbers could properly demand. The demand for this proposal did not come from the Protestant and Unionist minority, and no reason existed for applying to Dublin a system which did not exist in any other municipality in the three kingdoms. His own views on minority representation were, he believed, in agreement with those of the hon. and learned Member. When the question arose in the Debates on the Home Rule Bill in 1893, he spoke strongly in favour of securing minority representation in the proposed Irish Parliament, and he would be delighted to see it established throughout Ireland, but there was no demand for this artificial system in Dublin, where the minority were properly represented at the present moment. If this system of minority representation, which in principle was a good one, was to be applied to Ireland at all, it ought to be applied impartially to all parts, and after careful consideration by Parliament, and not by the operation of a clause in a private Bill. There were precedents for extending the franchise by private Bills, but there was no precedent for a private Bill altering the mode of election. The grievance was intensified enormously by the fact that it was done without consultation with the citizens of Dublin, and without the approval of any section of opinion in the city or the corporation. All sections of the Corporation were unanimous in opposing these clauses, and the minority repudiated the protection which the hon. and learned Gentleman pretended to offer them. Not a single meeting had been held in favour of the clauses, and there had been many resolutions passed against them.

MR. J. DILLON said that he objected to the clauses on two grounds. The Committee had already passed clauses extending the franchise; and these clauses were disfranchising in their character. Further, they conveyed a gross insult to the City of Dublin. The case of Belfast told strongly against these clauses. In Belfast, so great was the intolerance of the Protestants, that the Catholics never had any representation on the corporation. But in Dublin no complaint had been made of the intolerance of the Catholic majority. The cumulative vote was demanded for Belfast; but the Government declined to give to Belfast an artificial system of voting, which was not in existence in other cities of the United Kingdom. Now it was proposed to submit the City of Dublin to the humiliation and insult which the Government declined to inflict on Belfast. The hon. and learned Member for Louth, with great and unusual generosity to his opponents, said that he wished to give 10 seats in the corporation to the Unionist Party; but he could not share that generosity. In the past the Unionist Party had had a fair share of representation and of the emoluments of office. The system of voting proposed was entirely novel; it was not known to the English law at all; and on this occasion he felt bound to support the hon. Members for the City of Dublin. The application of so great a change as minority representation in municipal government ought to be the subject of consideration in a public Bill. He, personally, was distinctly opposed to minority representation in municipal government, but at any rate it ought not to be brought forward for the first time in a Water Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) appealed to the House, in the interests of business, to come to a decision on the question under consideration.

MR. EDWARD CARSON (Trinity College) said that if he thought that the Unionist minority would be benefited by the passing of these clauses, he would willingly support them. But he was informed that, taking the proposal as a whole—the extension of the franchise and the mode of voting—the Unionist minority would be a smaller minority in the future than it had been in the past, if the clauses were passed. This particular clause of the Bill would be useless, even if it did not in the long run leave the Unionists worse off than they were now. Therefore, speaking for himself, he should take on himself the responsibility of voting with the hon. Member for the Harbour Division. It was, he thought, a serious matter to reflect upon, that without one word from the Government Benches, the new system of voting should be introduced in a private Bill, and a revolution effected in the municipal government of the capital of Ireland. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. VESEY KNOX (Londonderry) said the right hon. and learned Gentleman had compared the Unionist representation in the Corporation of Dublin now with what it was likely to be if this clause were added to the Bill. It must be remembered, however, that the House had already passed the clauses extending the franchise, and the question for the hon. Gentleman to consider was whether in this extension some provision for the representation of the minority was not essential. The right hon. Gentleman could hardly contend that the position of the Unionist Party without the extended franchise and without this clause would be so favourable as under the Bill as it stood. He could not agree with his hon. Friends near him that the Unionist Party would have no grievance if the franchise were simply extended without any means being taken to give them a voice in the affairs of the Corporation, He had made inquiries from gentlemen on both sides of politics in Dublin, and he was told that there was one ward in which it was possible that the Unionists could obtain representation with the extended franchise. That was not a position which the right hon. and learned Gentleman could regard with favour.

MR. CARSON: What I said was that under the scheme of the Bill—the whole scheme—the minority in the Corporation would be smaller by a great many seats than it is now.

MR. KNOX said the position of the right hon. Gentleman was clear—he wanted to wreck both the extension of the franchise and the minority representation, but that position was likely to confuse the House. It would be impossible, without this provision, for the Unionists to carry more than one seat if they did that.

MR. HARRINGTON: My information is that if these clauses are not inserted elections will turn in the future not on politics, but on business capacity.

MR. KNOX: The elections always have turned on politics.

MR. HARRINGTON: May I be allowed to say that at the last election for Lord Mayor, the Nationalists were only successful over the other side by six votes.

MR. KNOX: Those Nationalists who on that occasion voted with the Conservative Party were denounced. He perfectly understood the system. ["Hear, hear!" *and a laugh.*] The fact remained that if, under the extended franchise, the elections were fought on political grounds, the Unionists would not be able to get representation in more than one ward, if in that; and an influential section of the people of Dublin would be kept out of the council. In form he admitted that the plan of the clause was new, but in substance there were many precedents for it. There had been three extensions of the municipal franchise in Irish towns through a private Bill, and in each case a maimed franchise had been adopted in order to carry out local agreements. The hon. and learned Member (Mr. J. Redmond) in the case of Waterford, and the hon. Member for Mayo (Mr. Dillon), in the case of Drogheda, had been instrumental in introducing these maimed franchises, which really gave protection and representation to minorities. ["Hear, hear!"]

MR. JAMES LOWTHER said that while he approved of minority representation, and had supported the principle by his votes in the House for the last 30 years, he was of opinion that so important a subject should be dealt with by the Government in a public Measure. He should, therefore, vote against the clause.

MR. FIELD was also in favour of minority representation, but considered that the principle should be applied equally all over Ireland, and not piecemeal to Dublin. The scheme of the Bill was revolutionary. Neither the citizens, nor the political associations, nor the working men's societies wanted it. He had received letters and resolutions from his constituents, protesting against the clause, and he intended, therefore, to vote against it. He maintained that this Bill, so far from increasing the number of minority members in the Corporation, would reduce the number, as he was informed, to five or six. A revolutionary Measure of this kind should not be introduced dealing with the city of Dublin alone. A public Bill dealing with the franchise question ought to be brought in extending such provisions to the whole of the country.

Question put, "That the words of Clauses 19 and 20 down to the word 'shall,' in page 9, line 18, stand part of the Bill."

The House divided :—Ayes, 106 ; Noes, 111.—(Division List, No. 384.)

Remaining words of Clause 20, omitted.

Clause 21,—

PRESIDING OFFICERS AT ELECTIONS.

The presiding officers at the elections of aldermen shall be nominated by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Dublin from amongst the members of the council.

Clause 22,—

AS TO CASUAL VACANCIES IN OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR OR ALDERMAN.

Casual vacancies in the office of alderman or councillor shall be held in like manner as before the passing of this Act save that a casual vacancy in the office of alderman for any group of wards shall be filled by election to be held for such group of wards. A person elected alderman or councillor at a casual election shall hold office for the remainder of the period for which the person whose place he is elected to fill was elected to fill, and no longer, but shall be eligible for re-election if then qualified.

Clause 23,—

NO PERSON TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION AS ALDERMAN OR COUNCILLOR UNLESS HE HAS PAID ALL RATES, ETC.

No person shall be eligible for election as alderman or councillor who shall not have paid all rates, cesses and taxes due by him in respect of the premises out of which he is qualified as a burgess save and except such as shall not become payable for the six calendar months next before the date on which his name in the burgess list shall have been revised.

Mr. HARRINGTON moved to omit Clauses 21, 22 and 23 as being now unnecessary.

Motion agreed to; Clauses 21 to 23 inclusive omitted.

Clause 24,—

OFFICE OF BOROUGH ASSESSOR TO BE ABOLISHED.

The office of borough assessor shall on and after the twenty-fifth day of November one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six be deemed to be abolished and the election for such office shall cease to be held.

Mr. HARRINGTON moved to omit Clause 24. He said that up to the present the Lord Mayor with two assessors had revised the burgess roll, and he thought it was too soon to abolish the office of assessor in view of the approaching revision.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that the clause would save the Corporation £300 a year. As the revising barrister had to do the work he did not see why they should provide a sinecure at the expense of the ratepayers for assessors.

Question proposed, "That Clause 24 stand part of the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 25,—

OFFICERS TO CONTINUE TO HOLD OFFICE.

Existing officers of the Corporation now elected annually or otherwise shall continue to hold office without election during good behaviour. No person shall be eligible to any office in the gift of the Corporation who has been an alderman or councillor of the city within twelve months preceding the election to such office.

Mr. HARRINGTON moved to leave out Clause 25 on the ground that it would prevent a member of the Corporation from been elected as Lord Mayor. A member of the Corporation who wished to become Lord Mayor would have to resign his position and remain outside the Corporation for 12 months before the election day.

Mr. T. M. HEALY thought that it was desirable that members of the Corporation should not be eligible as candidates for offices in the gift of the

Corporation, such as the offices of Town Clerk and City Marshal. He therefore could not consent to the omission of the clause.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND hoped the clause would be omitted. The had been no abuse in the Corporation under the existing state of things. The clause provided that no one should be eligible as a candidate for a post under the Corporation who had been a member of the Corporation within 12 months of the election. There might be on the Corporation a gentleman specially qualified to act as City solicitor, but this clause would preclude him from being appointed.

Mr. CARSON took objection to the first part of the clause because it would attach the condition of permanency to the position of Corporation officials who had hitherto been elected annually. A Corporation was not a permanent body *quoad* the members who composed it. Its members were liable to be turned out if the electors thought that the work of the Corporation had not been efficiently performed. That being the case, the Corporation ought to have full control over the officials charged with the duty of carrying out its wishes, and such control might be impaired if those officials held office permanently,

Mr. FIELD expressed the same opinion. The clause would make the officials of the Corporation its masters when they ought to be its servants. It could not be said that under the existing system any official of the Corporation had ever been capriciously evicted.

Mr. KNOX said that there were precedents for the proposals of the clause with regard to the Corporation officials both in English law and in a Provisional Order Bill recently passed relating to Armagh. He was himself rather against the plan of giving a long tenure to officials, but, having regard to the precedents, he thought the clause ought to be accepted. The clause in other respects was most salutary. It was nothing short of a public scandal that members of the Corporation should be constantly canvassing for official posts, and the clause would prevent jobs.

Question put: "That Clause 25 stand part of the Bill."

The House divided: Ayes, 88; Noes, 129.—(Division List, No. 385.)

*Mr. T. M. Healy.*

Clause 26,—

SUB-SHERIFF OF COUNTY OF CITY OF DUBLIN TO CONTINUE TO HOLD OFFICE.

The Sub-Sheriff of the county of the city of Dublin for the time being shall continue to hold office without further appointment by the High Sheriff, and such office of Sub-Sheriff shall be holden during good behaviour from the corporation, and future Sub-Sheriffs shall be elected and appointed by the corporation.

SUB-SHERIFF TO ENTER INTO BOND.

The Sub-Sheriff shall enter into a bond to the High Sheriff as if this Act had not passed with sufficient securities for the due performance of his duties.

Mr. HARRINGTON, rising to Order, said that under the Instruction moved in the House the Committee were entitled to inquire into the appointment of any officer elected by the corporation or by anybody appointed by the corporation. The Sub-Sheriff was appointed by the High Sheriff, and by the Act which regulated the appointment of the High Sheriff it was provided that the corporation should nominate three persons qualified to fill the office, and that the Lord Lieutenant should appoint one of the three persons so nominated to the office. He contended that the High Sheriff, therefore, did not come within the instruction under which Clause 26 was inserted. The instruction to the Committee was that they have power to make provision for the amendment of the law as to the election of the aldermen, councillors, etc., and also of any officers annually elected by the corporation. He submitted that that did not include the Sub-Sheriff, as he was not appointed by a person appointed by the corporation. The Committee, in giving the Sub-Sheriff a permanent appointment, had exceeded their powers, as he was appointed by the High Sheriff, who, in turn, was appointed by the Lord Lieutenant.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The Council, as I understand it, nominates three persons, and out of those three persons the Lord Lieutenant appoints one to fill the office of High Sheriff. The High Sheriff appoints the Sub-Sheriff, and the question is whether the Sub-Sheriff is a person appointed by the Corporation. It seems to me that the Sheriff is not a person appointed by the corporation within the meaning of the Instruction, and therefore the Committee in dealing with the office of Sub-Sheriff have exceeded their powers under the Instruction.

MR. HARRINGTON: Then I beg to move that Clause 26 be struck out.

Clause 26 omitted.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the Third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed, with Amendments.

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## *QUESTIONS.*

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### VACCINATION (ROYAL COMMISSION).

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, seeing that the Royal Commission on Vaccination has been sitting over six years, he can hold out any hopes that they will be able to publish the result of their investigations in time for the Report to be laid before the House by the end of the present Session?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): The Commissioners hope to be able to submit their Report to Her Majesty in time for its presentation to Parliament before the close of the Session. If, however, they are unable to do so, the Report will be, by Her Majesty's permission, presented in dummy with a view to its being circulated to Members during the Recess. In either case, it will be, I hope, in the hands of Members within the next four or five weeks.

### EVICTION NOTICES (COUNTY CAVAN)

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, can he state the number of eviction notices, under the Seventh section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, which have been served in Cavan County since the passage of that Act; in how many cases were tenants whose tenancies were so determined readmitted as caretakers, future tenants, and present tenants; and in how many cases were the holdings left derelict, and the tenants wholly dispossessed after service of these notices; and, can he state the number of County Cavan estates now pending sale in the Land Judges or Land Commission Courts?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The number of eviction notices under Section 7 of the Act of 1887 served in County Cavan between the date of the passing of the Act and the 30th June, 1896, was 2,842. But in 452 cases only were the notices followed by actual eviction proceedings. I have already more than once explained that Government has no effective means at its disposal of obtaining reliable, or even approximately reliable, information as to the numbers of tenants restored as either "present" or "future" tenants, but I am told that out of the 452 cases of actual eviction proceedings to which I have referred, the tenants were readmitted in 257 cases, either as caretakers or tenants, leaving only 195 cases in which the holdings were left derelict and the tenants wholly dispossessed in the period mentioned. The police have no records to show what has been done in the 2,390 cases in which eviction proceedings did not follow the service of notices, but it may be assumed that in the great majority of these cases settlements were arrived at between landlord and tenant. The statistics of the Land Judge's Court do not enable the Registrar to state the number of estates for sale in that Court according to counties. There are six estates from the county, in which sale proceedings are now pending in the Land Commission Court.

### IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS (WORK-MISTRESSES).

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) can he state what were the propositions submitted by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland to the Government on the subject of providing increased remuneration by way of salary and results for workmistresses in Irish National schools; (2) Whether anything will be done in the coming year to encourage the greater employment and better training of these workmistresses in technical education on improved principles; and (3) whether the Board of Education can provide for an increased number of such qualified teachers in exclusively rural districts?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: As regards the first paragraph, I have already informed the hon. Member in reply to a previous question which he addressed to me on the same subject, that I am not prepared to state what is the nature of the proposals referred to. The other inquiries have been referred to the Commissioners, who will consider them at their next meeting on the 11th inst.

### BELTURBET MILITARY BARRACKS.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office, can he state in whose hands the old Military Barracks at Belturbet now is; whether it is proposed to use it for Military purposes again; and, if not, what the War Department intend to do with it.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. Powell-Williams Birmingham, S.): The Barracks at Belturbet are in the charge of the Military authorities. They are liable to be used when there is not room in other barracks in the districts.

### MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BARRACKS.

Mr. W. J. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether he can state why the Hulme Cavalry Barracks, Manchester, and the Regent's Road Barracks, Salford, are being dismantled of all the Military fixtures if the War Office have not as yet decided what is to be done with regard to the garrison in Manchester and Salford in the future; and whether he can say how soon the decision of the Military authorities with regard to Manchester and Salford will be made public?

*The UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): There is no present question of demolishing or dismantling the Hulme Barracks which are now occupied by troops. The barracks at Salford have such unsatisfactory drainage that they cannot be occupied without very considerable re-construction. The question is before the Military authorities, and all the circumstances will be carefully weighed, some little delay will therefore occur before a decision is come to.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Will the question be considered on military apart from political grounds?

*Mr. BRODRICK: Yes, Sir, certainly on military grounds.

In answer to a further question from Mr. Galloway,

*Mr. BRODRICK: If any decision is arrived at I will communicate to the hon. Member. The question must be decided before any money is expended on barracks.

### ARMY FOOD AND FORAGE SUPPLIES.

Colonel RUSSELL (Cheltenham): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office, whether the Government after the careful consideration which they promised at the commencement of the Session to give to this subject, have come to any decision regarding the supply of food and forage to the Army; and, whether they see their way to giving our own in place of foreign agriculturists the benefit of the money paid by the taxpayers in this country for the support of the defensive forces of the Empire?

Mr. POWELL-WILLIAMS: It has not yet been possible to arrive at any decision regarding the supply of meat and forage to the Army. The question is one involving many serious points—not the least of which are those relating to expense, and to change in the present military system. The inquiries are being pursued in the hope that some solution of the question may be found which, either wholly or in part, may meet the object which the hon. Member has in view.

### MERCANTILE MARINE (EXAMINATION OF MASTERS AND MATES).

Sir EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, if he will be good enough to inform the House how and in what respect the existing regulations for the examination of masters and mates in the mercantile marine are to be modified after the 1st January 1898; will he state what is meant by the words "by the addition, largely of new matter," contained in the circular of the Marine Department, No. 539, and dated February 1896; and, will he say what percentage of applicants fail annually under the current system in the United Kingdom?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. C. T. RITCHIE, Croydon): I fear it is not possible for me within the limits of an answer in this House to explain every point in which the new regulations for the examination of masters and mates will differ from the old, but the general effect of the alterations (which, I may say, have met with wide approval) will be to somewhat raise the standard of the examinations and to improve the method of conducting them The words on the cover of the Circular to which the hon. Member refers mean that the main changes made are embodied in paragraphs 1 to 18, and that those made in the other paragraphs are indicated by italics. The average percentage of failures yearly under the current system during the last three years has been 50.

## TRANSMISSION OF SEAMEN'S WAGES.

SIR EDWARD GOURLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether, seeing that the transmission system for the payment of seamen's wages, originated by Captain Pitman, has proved a success at Dunkirk, will he arrange with him to establish the system at the other Home Foreign Ports between Havre and Hamburg; whether, seeing that the shipowners alone benefit by the discharge of their crews abroad, he will arrange with the Foreign Office that the Consuls shall be instructed to levy the charges for transmission upon the ships rather than upon the seamen; and whether he is aware that seamen arriving at Antwerp in British ships are discharged there, because owners can re-engage their crews at a cheaper rate than in the United Kingdom?

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) asked whether the discharge of seamen at Antwerp was not in accordance with agreements as approved by the Board of Trade, concerning the procedure to be adopted with seamen at the final arrival port of the voyage; whether, when, discharged abroad the expenses of sending the seamen to their homes are not defrayed by the master of the vessel on account of the owners?

MR. RITCHIE: I am in communication with the Treasury and Foreign Office with regard to the extension of the transmission system originated by the Board of Trade at Dunkirk to other foreign ports, but no definite decision has yet been arrived at. I am not prepared to express an opinion why shipowners discharge their crews at Antwerp; and, with regard to the charges for transmission, I can only say that I have appointed a Committee to consider the whole subject of the conditions under which seamen are engaged and discharged at home trade ports abroad. My hon. Friend, I think, has correctly stated the conditions under which the discharge takes place, but the whole question will be taken into consideration by the Committee I have appointed.

MR. J. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough): I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is not the fact that the 186th Section of the Merchant Shipping Act provides that the owner shall defray the expenses of a seaman discharged in a foreign port to his home in the United Kingdom, or to the port of engagement; and whether the Board of Trade are insisting upon that section of the Act being carried out.

MR. RITCHIE: I do not think the hon. Gentleman is correct in saying that it is to the port of engagement. To a home port certainly, and there is a question as to what the actual meaning of that word is. But I am always very glad indeed to take means for insisting upon carrying out the clause of the Merchant Shipping Act to which the hon. Gentleman refers, when a breach of it is brought to my notice.

MR. J. HAVELOCK WILSON: Is it not a fact that the attention of the Board of Trade has frequently been drawn to breaches of the section?

FEMALE TELEGRAPHISTS (BELFAST).

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General—(1) with reference to the late promotions to the first class of female telegraphists in Belfast, how many were so promoted, and what is the average length of service of each; how many were on that occasion superseded, and what is the length of their respective services; and also what were the grounds upon which these supersessions took place; (2) whether he is aware that those superseded have performed and continue to discharge similar duties as those performed by those by whom they have been superseded, and that similar duties in other large offices are participated in by members of the service holding the rank of first class telegraphist; (3) whether it is alleged that the supersessions in this instance are due to those superseded not being efficient in the manipulation of telegraph instruments; and (4), whether, seeing that the alleged disqualification is due to local administration which debarred them from attaining a high standard of proficiency, and that at least two of those superseded are equally as efficient as some of the present members of the first class, he will reconsider his decision in the matter?

THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. R. W. HANBURY, Preston): The number of women telegraphists recently promoted was seven. Their length of service ranged from 13 to 7½ years, the average being about 9½ years. Five women telegraphists were passed over, and their length of service was about 25 years in each case. These five were passed over because they were not qualified to perform the duties of first class telegraphists. The answer to the second paragraph is in the affirmative; but such work forms only a portion of that for which the promoted telegraphists may be made responsible. The answer to the third paragraph is, Yes. The Postmaster General has no reason to suppose that the disqualification of those who were passed over is due to any default in the local administration. The promoted telegraphists worked under the same conditions as the others. I have answered the hon. Member's Question, though I hope that the House will allow me to add that injury will be done to the Public Service, and pain may be caused to individuals, if questions are frequently asked as to the grounds on which promotions are made or refused.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Is it not a fact that the superseded telegraphists are now engaged on duties—public and departmental—as important as those of the telegraphists who superseded them?

MR. HANBURY: For a portion of the time they are—at the beginning of their new service. But the promoted telegraphists are liable at any time to be called upon to take much more responsible work, and it is for that work that those not promoted are not fitted.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Did any of them fail? Is it not fair that they should have an opportunity of trying that work?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member's Question has been fully answered.

SKIBBEREEN MAGISTRACY.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the conduct of Dr. William Jennings, J.P., of Skibbereen, in occupying a seat on the Bench at the last weekly petty sessions of Skibbereen, and endeavouring to prevent by unseemly behaviour the issue of a summons applied for by Mr. Sheehy, solicitor, on behalf of Mr. Charles M'Carthy, a local trader, against the said Dr. Jennings, J.P., for alleged assault; and, whether the matter has been brought to the notice of the Lord Chancellor; and, if so, what action does he propose to take in the matter?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The hon. Member has forwarded to me a newspaper report of the occurrence in question. I have called for a report in reference to the matter, though if, as appears to be the case, a summons has been issued against Dr. Jennings, the Lord Chancellor could obviously not investigate the matter until the summons has been heard and the facts are fully known.

## ELECTION OF POOR LAW GUARDIANS (IRELAND).

MR. JAMES DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether he can state how many sworn inquiries were held during the year 1893, 1894, and 1895, arising out of the election of poor law guardians in Ireland; (2) and, whether he will take steps to have elections for the position of poor law guardian in future carried out under the Ballot Act.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The number of sworn inquiries held during the years mentioned in connection with the election of Poor Law Guardians in Ireland were 13 in 1893; 8 in 1894; and 12 in 1895. Legislation would be necessary to give effect to the proposal in the second paragraph, and I cannot give any pledge in the matter at the present.

## POTATO DISEASE (COUNTY CAVAN).

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that potato disease has already extensively appeared in the Western portion of the County Cavan; and can he state whether potato spraying has been recommended in this district by the local authorities, or have steps been taken by the Government to make the application of strawsonite to prevent disease easy of access to the poorer class of the inhabitants, to whom the potato crop is so essentially necessary?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I understand that the potato disease has made its appearance in some parts of the County Cavan, but that the potato crop, generally, looks green and healthy and no substantial damage has yet been done to the tubers. There appears indeed to be every reason to believe that the yield of the crop will be equal to, if not above the average. I am not aware that the spraying of the potato plant with strawsonite or other solutions has been recommended by the local authorities in West Cavan. Copies of the leaflets prepared by the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission with directions for the use of spraying machines and various mixtures used, were largely circulated amongst Boards of Guardians in Cavan and elsewhere, together with the recent special Report of experiments conducted by the Department in the season of 1895. Everything has been done by Government which experience suggested, to give publicity to these documents, and otherwise to bring home to the minds of the farming classes in Ireland the beneficial results following upon a timely application of the solutions referred to, and the Government believe that the efficacy of these applications is now very well known throughout the country. Notwithstanding this, however, I am informed that only a small proportion of the farmers in West Cavan have made use of these appliances and solutions during the past season.

## BAILIEBOROUGH UNION (COUNTY CAVAN).

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—(1) whether his attention has been called to the statement that, in a recent audit of the accounts of Bailieborough Union, and in a report to the Local Government Board, Mr. Sheehan, auditor, has recommended the stoppage of payment of collectors of poor rates fees until the collections are fully closed; (2) whether this recommendation amounts to a mandamus to the collectors to levy their rates the moment the warrants are signed, which will press very severely upon the poor ratepayers in the county Cavan; and (3) will he take steps to see that no undue pressure is exercised, particularly at this season of the year, when money is scarce with the poorer class of farmers all over Ireland?

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Auditor's report is not open to the construction put upon it in the second paragraph. A collector is only entitled to be paid his poundage fees when his collection is fully closed, and the Auditor has called attention to this rule, a strict compliance with which, he states, is the only way to make the collectors carry out their duties properly. In this Union the current rate has been in course of collection now nearly 8 months, whereas the time allowed to the collectors to complete their collections is only four months. The Local Government Board have no authority to interfere with the collectors in any legal proceeding they may take to recover outstanding rates.

### DEATH OF A BOY AT COOKSTOWN (IRELAND.)

MR. P. C. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.): I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland, has he read a minute of the evidence taken at an inquest in Cookstown touching the death of a boy of 14 years of age, named Patrick Coleman, from which it appears that the verdict of the jury at their adjourned meeting of the 10th June was that, in their opinion, the deceased Pat Coleman came to his death from strangulation, but by what means they were unable to find; and, what steps the Government propose to take to clear up the mystery of this boy's death.

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am asked by my right hon. Friend the Attorney-General to say in answer to this Question that he has carefully read the report of the evidence given at the inquest. Since the inquest, the Police have been investigating the case, but no evidence has as yet been obtained to implicate any person, or even to show that the death was not accidental.

### ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, HEYWOOD.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the Education Department has obtained the report of the sanitary officers of the Town Council of Heywood as to the sanitary condition of St. John's School; whether the Department has ordered an examination by its own inspector in respect to the sanitary condition and the structural fitness of such school, and also of the other public elementary schools in the town; and, if so, with what result; and whether the question of additional school accommodation will now be reconsidered?

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University: (1.) Not yet. (2.) Yes; and the inspector has reported that the school is in a good sanitary condition and that the premises are generally satisfactory. (3.) Inquiries are being made as to the question of additional school accommodation.

### BURIAL AT SHIRLAND, NEAR ALFRETON.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received from the parties concerned declarations concerning the statement that, on the burial of Robert Tomlinson in the churchyard at Shirland, near Alfreton, the rector objected to a Nonconformist burial at five o'clock in the afternoon, and required that it should be at three o'clock; and, whether such requirement was contrary to the provisions of the Burial Act of 1880?

*SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY: Yes, Sir, I have received statements to this effect from those in charge of the funeral and have been unable to obtain any satisfactory explanation from the rector who simply denies their accuracy. It seems clear that under Section 3 of the Act objection cannot be made to a funeral taking place at five o'clock in the month of July except on some one of the grounds mentioned in the section; the section does not exclude a mutual arrangement between the parties, but in default of any such arrangement, or of a written intimation from the incumbent that the hour fixed is inconvenient, it is provided (by Section 4) that the burial shall take place at the time specified.

### BOILER EXPLOSION (H.M.S. "BLAKE.")

MR. FORTESCUE FLANNERY Yorkshire, Shipley): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if his attention has been called to the verdict of the coroner's jury in the case of the accident to one of the boilers of H.M.S. "*Blake*," and to the committal of the fleet engineer in charge of her machinery for manslaughter; whether in the case of a large ship with a large number of subordinates, the engineers in charge are held by the Admiralty responsible to the extent of personal criminalty for the negligence of any of those working under them as to the condition of the parts of the machinery; and, whether the Admiralty will take steps to provide proper legal assistance to the fleet engineer concerned when taking his trial upon the coroner's committal.

The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Mr. G. J. Goschen, St George's, Hanover Square): My attention has naturally been called to the verdict of the coroner's jury in the case of the accident on the *Blake*. The questions raised by it are too grave for me to be able to deal with them in a reply to a question across the Table of the House, but I need not assure the hon. Member that I am studying them with anxious attention. It will certainly be the duty of the Admiralty to see that steps are taken for the protection of the interests of all concerned.

## COUNTY SURVEYORSHIP (IRELAND).

Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, under the regulations for examination for County Surveyorships in Ireland, service as County Surveyor's Assistant would count as giving qualifying experience for an appointment as County Surveyor, if the examination was successfully passed?

*Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Candidates for County Surveyorships in Ireland are required to show that they have been engaged in the practice of their profession in a responsible position, in charge of important works, for not less than four years, one of which at least shall have been spent in Ireland. A County Surveyor's Assistant would be eligible to compete provided he fulfilled the requirements of the regulations, but the mere fact of his being an assistant would not necessarily qualify him.

## STREET PREACHING (SLIGO).

Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the reports of the action for assault brought by the Mayor of Sligo, in the Borough Court of Sligo, against District Inspector Carden, from which it appears that in his evidence the Mayor stated that he did not consider it any part of his duty to protect the street preachers, that under no circumstances would he protect them, and that this evidence was followed by applause in the gallery; and whether the conduct of the Mayor of Sligo and the management of the Borough Court will be brought under the notice of the Lord Lieutenant?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I have received from my hon. Friend a newspaper report of the proceedings referred to, which, however, hardly seems to warrant the construction placed upon it in the Question.

## GOVERNMENT PRINTING CONTRACTS (IRELAND).

Mr. MICHAEL DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to complaints made on behalf of the Typographical Societies of Dublin and Belfast about the evasion of the terms of the Fair Wages Resolution in connection with Government printing contracts in Ireland; whether the printing required for Departments under the control of the Local Government Board of Ireland falls within the purview of the said Resolution; what steps, if any, have been taken to secure that the execution of such contracts as fall under the category of Local Government Board printing shall be carried out in accordance with such Resolution; and whether, in view of the fact that large Government printing and stationery contracts are about to be entered into for the Irish Public Departments, the Treasury will take note of the complaints in question and endeavour to have such contracts carried out in strict accord with the meaning and intention of the House of Commons Resolution of February, 1891?

Mr. HANBURY: The Fair Wages Resolution is expressly limited to Government contracts, and does not include those of local public bodies. If the Irish Local Government Board have any printing contracts of their own, the Resolution would presumably apply. The evidence given before the Committee on Stationery Contracts shows that some printing done for the National Education Commissioners was not considered by the contractors to be subject to the Resolution, but that view, of course, is not a correct one. I have reason to believe that an impression prevails that the Resolution applies to the printing done for certain local authorities in Ireland, such as Boards of Guardians; but they, of course, are not Government Departments, and the Resolution cannot affect them.

MR. WILLIAM CORBET (Wicklow, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he explain why the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons is not enforced in contracts in subordinate departments under the supervision of the Irish Local Government Board; is he aware that a great portion of the printing done for the Poor Law Department, such as jurors' lists, etc., is done by employers who persistently ignore the Fair Wages Resolution; and that a great portion of the public advertisements are given to newspapers produced under conditions antagonistic to the Resolution, and are transformed into different papers by the simple plan of changing name and heading of pages; and whether he will take measures to see that the Resolution is enforced in Ireland in all printing contracts under the Irish Local Government Board?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I believe that the Fair Wages Resolution is in force in all Government contracts in Ireland. Boards of Guardians are, of course, not Government Departments, and the Local Government Board have no power to compel Boards of Guardians to comply with the terms of the Resolution.

## LEE-METFORD AMMUNITION AT BISLEY.

MR. JAMES BAILLIE (Inverness-shire): On behalf of the hon. Member for Cheltenham (Colonel RUSSELL), I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the very general complaints made of the ammunition supplied for the Lee-Metford rifle at Bisley; whether the Militia have also made similar complaints; and whether he has any reason to believe these complaints are well founded; and, if so, what steps the Government propose to take to remedy this most serious danger to our military efficiency?

*MR. BRODRICK: Complaints have been received from Bisley of a certain number of hang-fires, but no such complaint has come from the Militia. No pains will be spared to discover the origin of these hang-fires and to prevent a recurrence of the defect; but it is satisfactory that except in respect of the ammunition supplied at Bisley, no complaints whatever have been received, although ·303 ammunition has been fired by the Regulars throughout the year.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): Will the hon. Member inform the House from what firm or Government factory these useless cartridges were obtained?

*MR. BRODRICK: That subject is under investigation; we are endeavouring to see whether we can trace them.

SIR HENRY FLETCHER (Sussex, Lewes) asked whether the hon. Gentleman had received a report from the secretary to the National Rifle Association with regard to the defective cartridges alluded to in the Question, and also with regard to the Martini-Henry cartridges, which had likewise proved defective?

*MR. BRODRICK: Such a report has been received. The investigation will deal with both points.

MR J. H. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): What was the age of the ammunition?

*MR. BRODRICK: I cannot say; we are looking into the whole subject.

## QUEEN'S HARBOUR MASTER FOR HAMOAZE.

MR. R. ASCROFT (Oldham): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether any person has been appointed as Queen's Harbour Master for Hamoaze to superintend the execution of the provisions of the Dockyard Port Regulations Act, 1865; whether such person is solely responsible for seeing that the provisions of the said Act and Orders in Council relating thereto are carried out; and whether the Metropolitan Police are also empowered to act independent of the Queen's Harbour Master, and to bring actions against persons contravening the Act and Orders in Council arising therefrom; and, if so, under which Acts such power is vested in the hands of the Metropolitan Police?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: The Staff Captain of Devonport Dockyard is Queen's Harbour Master for Hamoaze. This officer is responsible for seeing that the provisions of any Order in Council issued under the Dockyard Ports Regulations Act, 1865, are carried out. The Metropolitan Police do not, so far as I know, institute prosecutions under the Act or Orders in Council; but, if they observe any infraction of the regulations, they report the matter, and if any legal action is necessary, the Queen's Harbour Master takes proceedings.

### BOYCE (THE LATE DR.).

MR. M. M. BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a petition has been received by the Foreign Office from the widow of Dr. S. R. Boyce, a Parsee medical officer lately employed under Her Majesty's Commissioner and Consul General in British Central Africa, who lost his life in a slave expedition, near Lake Nyassa, for a maintenance allowance for herself and her two infant children; and whether, in view of the fact that in attacking the slave dhows, the commander of the expedition having been killed and the second officer severely wounded, Dr. Boyce led the men, and fell a victim to treachery on the part of the Native Chief Makinjira, the Foreign Office will take such petition into favourable consideration, and grant a maintenance allowance to Dr. Boyce's widow and children, who have been left utterly destitute by his death?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. GEORGE CURZON, Lancashire, Southport): Yes, Sir; I am happy to inform the hon. Member that, in reply to representations from the Foreign Office, the Treasury have recognised the meritorious character of the case to which he alludes, and have granted a pension of £33 6s. 8d. per annum to the widow of Dr. Boyce, together with a gratuity of £23 for her two children.

### LOCAL LOANS (WALES).

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): On behalf of the hon. Member for Mid-Glamorgan (Mr. SAMUEL EVANS), I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board what is the total amount the Public Works Loan Commissioners are authorised to lend to local authorities; what is the total amount such Commissioners are authorised to lend to local authorities in the county of Glamorgan; what is the total amount such Commissioners are authorised to lend to the County Council of the county of Glamorgan; and what is the total amount which the Commissioners have already advanced or lent to local authorities in the county of Glamorgan?

MR. HANBURY: The sum named in this year's Public Works Loans Bill to be issued to the Public Works Loan Board for the purpose of making local loans is £1,500,000. The persons to whom loans may be made are not always local authorities in the sense of the hon. Member's question. The present Bill, for instance, takes power to lend for the construction or improvement of canals. There is no apportioned limit to the Public Works Loan Board's power of lending to any particular local authority. The amount depends, amongst other things, on the local authorities' powers of borrowing. The Board keep no record of the amounts advanced to each individual county. To select the amounts advanced to local authorities in the county of Glamorgan would entail considerable labour, and perhaps, in view of what I have said above, the hon. Member will not press his request.

### COUNTY COURT FEES.

MR. HENRY BEMROSE (Derby): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if his attention has been directed to the fact that the fees now charged in the county courts are proportionately far in excess of those charged in the High Court; and that they press very heavily on the poor suitor, as for instance in the case of a man claiming, say £5, for damages, or for wages, etc.; if he is not prepared with 10s. hearing fee, the case is struck out, with the loss to him of 6s. entrance fee already paid; and if, seeing that the county courts are not only self-supporting, but produce a surplus, he will consider whether the fees can be reduced, especially the hearing and execution fees?

Mr. **HANBURY**: I am not in a position to compare the fees in county courts with those charged for corresponding services in the High Court, and I am not sure what my hon. Friend may mean by the phrase "proportionately far in excess." The figures given are correct in the case selected. The fees must, of course, have some relation to the cost of the Courts themselves, and my hon. Friend is mistaken in supposing that the county courts are self-supporting and even produce a surplus. On the contrary, they cost the taxpayer over £30,000 yearly, besides £90,000 for the salaries and pensions of Judges. As more than 1,100,000 plaints are entered yearly for amounts not exceeding £20, the fees do not appear to deter suitors. I will have inquiry made as to the allegation that those fees fall with undue weight upon poor suitors; but the whole question of the amount of these fees is, of course, subject to the approval of the Lord Chancellor.

## ILLEGAL TRAWLING (SCOTCH WATERS).

Mr. J. **McLEOD** (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Admiralty has yet made any reply to the representations received from the Scottish Office and the Fishery Board for Scotland as to the necessity for further assistance in policeing the Scottish inshore waters against the depredations of trawlers acting in defiance of the law?

*The **LORD ADVOCATE** (Mr. Graham Murray, Buteshire): A reply from the Admiralty has been received, and the matter is still under consideration of the Departments concerned. As the hon. Member is aware, many considerations must be taken into account before a definite decision can be arrived at.

## RAILWAY ACCIDENTS AT PRESTON.

Lord **BALCARRES** (Lancashire, Chorley): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if it will be possible for him to arrange that the reports of the Inquiries into the four railway accidents which have recently occurred in and near Preston can be issued before the end of the Session?

Mr. **RITCHIE**: I am afraid that the short time available before the close of the Session will make it impossible to comply with this request, but I shall be happy to present the reports if I receive them in time. The Inquiry into the 3rd accident has not yet been held.

## COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Sir **CHARLES DILKE** (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Lords' Amendments to the Coal Mines Regulation Bill will be considered?

Sir **MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY**: I cannot say at present, as the Bill has not been returned yet from the Lords.

Sir **CHARLES DILKE**: Will the right hon. Gentleman give such notice as will enable missing Members, who are greatly interested, to return to town—as, for instance, the hon. Member for Rhondda, who is detained elsewhere on mining business?

Sir **MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY**: I will do so as far as I can, but, as the right hon. Gentleman knows, it is very difficult at this period of the Session to give much notice.

Sir **CHARLES DILKE**: Even a notice of two days would be useful.

## LIMERICK POST OFFICE.

Mr. **PATRICK O'BRIEN**: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if the privilege of educational examination under the old scheme, which has been granted recently to an acting telegraphist at Limerick, will be extended to the numerous auxiliary sorting clerks employed in the postal department of that office?

Mr. **HANBURY**: The privilege of examination under the old scheme will be given to such of the temporary sorting clerks and telegraph learners at Limerick as have been continuously employed on post office clerical duties from a date prior to December 1892.

### EAST LONDON WATER SUPPLY.

MR. PICKERSGILL had given notice of the following Question :—

> "To ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether his attention has been called to the report of an inquest on a child held at Poplar on Monday last, when Dr. Cooper Harrison, the medical witness, attributed the existing prevalence of fatal cases of diarrhœa among children in the East End of London to the scanty supply of water, and also stated that in his own house the water was not turned on more than one hour a day, and that there was a filthy deposit in the water supplied; and, whether, in these circumstances, he will make further representations to the East London Company of the urgent necessity for improving both the quantity and the quality of the water which they are supplying to their customers?"

The hon. Member said that, at the request of the right hon. Gentleman (Mr. Chaplin), he begged to postpone the Question, but he desired to take the opportunity of urging the extreme necessity of improving the quality and quantity of the water supply in East London.

### SLAVERY AT ZANZIBAR.

MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, as stated in the *Zanzibar Gazette* of 1st July, Mr. Commissioner A. H. Hardinge has left Zanzibar for a six months' holiday, and what steps in that event Her Majesty's Government propose to take to carry out the pledge given to Parliament on 27th March last, that Mr. Hardinge would go back to Zanzibar in the autumn with instructions to carry out immediately the abolition of the legal status of slavery?

COLONEL DENNY: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what action the Government intend to take in fulfilment of their promise to consider the abolition of the status of slavery in Zanzibar, in view of the fact that Consul General Hardinge has arrived in this country?

MR. CURZON: Her Majesty's Government are already engaged in considering, in consultation with Mr. Hardinge, the best method of carrying out the pledges which they gave to the House earlier in the year.

MR. DALZIEL: I understood the pledge to be that this would be carried out during the autumn?

MR. CURZON: No, that it would be carried out on the return of Mr. Hardinge to Zanzibar. I do not exactly know the date of his return.

### SLAVE TRADE IN MOROCCO.

MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, seeing that large numbers of slaves are from time to time being openly sold in Mogador and other seaport towns in Morocco contrary to prohibition, Her Majesty's Government will communicate with the British Minister at Tangier with a view to representations being made to the Government of Morocco against the continuance of this traffic?

MR. CURZON: Instructions have from time to time been sent to successive British Ministers at Tangier to take every favourable opportunity for urging on the Sultan the suppression of the traffic in slaves. As recently as March last Sir Arthur Nicolson was reminded of these instructions, which there is no doubt that he has borne in mind. He will, however, be asked to report upon the matter.

### NORTH SEA FISHERIES.

MR. T. R. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether any substantial progress has been made since the discussion on 24th April in the efforts instituted by the Secretary for Scotland to bring about an agreement for an extension of the territorial limit for fishery purposes on the North Sea?

*THE LORD ADVOCATE: Communications on the subject are still in progress between the Departments concerned, but an agreement in the direction suggested in the questions of the hon. Member has not yet been arrived at.

### INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT (DUNDALK).

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the surveyor of taxes, Dundalk, has charged a man named Boyd Income Tax on houses he holds from Mr. Leslie, Ballybay, and that the landlord, Mr. Leslie, has also paid Income Tax on property mentioned; and, whether it is usual for landlord and tenant to pay Income Tax on the same property?

MR. HANBURY: I requested the hon. Member on Tuesday to postpone this Question till to-morrow, but the Inland Revenue Board inform me that they have had to send an inspector to examine into the case on the spot, and that they do not expect to receive his report till Monday, so perhaps the hon. Member will kindly postpone his Question till that day.

### ALDERSHOT (TENT FLOOR-BOARDS).

CAPTAIN PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, as regulars have been, and in all probability will be, for some months encamped at Aldershot in what is practically a standing camp, he will consider the advisability of drawing the attention of the medical authority to the necessity of recommending the general officer commanding to make requisition for these troops being supplied with tent floor-boards, in place of their providing themselves at their own expense with these boards, as in many instances they are doing at present?

*MR. BRODRICK: The Secretary of State has every confidence in the discretion of the general officer commanding, who has power to move in this matter if he thinks right.

CAPTAIN PIRIE: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the men provide these from their own funds?

*MR. BRODRICK: No, I am not aware of that. I think the hon. and gallant Member, as a military man, must be aware that it is not desirable for the Department to interfere except at the desire of the commanding officer.

CAPTAIN PIRIE: Quite so, but I will take an opportunity of pointing out that payments are now made from the canteen fund.

### WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the evidence given by Mr. Conacher, Manager of the North British Railway, before the Select Committee on the Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Bill, in which he stated that the earnings of the West Highland Railway were most disappointing, and had only amounted to about five guineas per mile per week, or less than half what was estimated; and whether, in view of these facts, he still intends to push forward a Bill by which £260,000 of public money is to be advanced to this company for their Mallaig Extension?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I have seen the evidence referred to. Mr. Conacher put the traffic on the West Highland Railway for the year 1895 at five guineas per mile per week, and for the year just closed at £5 11s. per mile per week. It was only opened in August, 1894. He added that, having regard to the through traffic which the Mallaig line will command, he put the two lines very much on the same footing. On this basis the Bill would involve at the outside a charge on the Treasury of £2,000 a year for 30 years, not an advance of £260,000; but, as the receipts will certainly increase, the real cost will be much less. I certainly intend to proceed with the Bill.

### NATIONAL GALLERY OF SCOTLAND.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Government will renew the grant of £1,000 a-year for the purchase of pictures for the National Gallery of Scotland, or on what grounds they propose not to give to the Scottish Gallery a grant similar to that enjoyed by the other two National Galleries of England and Ireland?

MR. HANBURY: No such proposal has been submitted to the Treasury, and there has therefore been no refusal on their part. Had it been brought forward when the Estimates were in preparation, it would of course have been considered on its merits.

MR. BUCHANAN: Are we to understand that an application, if made, will be favourably considered?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: It will be considered on its merit.

## GAME LICENCES (SCOTLAND).

**Mr. R. PIERPOINT** (Warrington): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that in Scotland it is unlawful to shoot game on a Sunday, 14-day game licences are available for 14 days exclusive of Sundays?

**The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER**: The licences in question are granted under the Act 46 Vict. cap. 10, Section 5, which provides that they are to be granted for a continuous period of 14 days. They cannot, therefore, be made available for a period of 14 days exclusive of Sunday?

## QUEEN'S REIGN.

**Mr. GALLOWAY**: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government, in the distribution of honours in celebration of Her Majesty's long reign, will take into consideration the claims of officers of the police force, who by long and meritorious service are deserving of distinction at the hands of Her Majesty?

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY** (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): There is a general rule, the propriety of which I am sure my hon. Friend will recognise, which forbids discussion in this House of the question of distribution of honours by Her Majesty; but the Prime Minister will, of course, give due consideration to any representation that may be made to him.

## INDIAN BUDGET.

**Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN** (Banffshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now state on what day the Indian Budget will be taken.

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY** said the House would probably be asked to consider the Indian Budget on Friday next week.

## MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

**Mr. CHARLES WILSON** (Hull W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he will have an Inquiry held into the result of the working of the Merchandise Marks Acts as affecting British trade and shipping, and the advertisement it gives to foreign goods, resulting to some extent in the shipping trade of Hamburg already taking precedence over Liverpool?

**Mr. RITCHIE**: My right hon. Friend has asked me to reply to this question. I think the matter is one calling for inquiry, and I will consider during the Recess whether it should be by a Committee of the House or otherwise. I must not, however, be understood as expressing any opinion on the cause of the increase of the shipping trade at Hamburg.

## AGRICULTURAL LAND RATING BILL.

**Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT** (Monmouthshire, W.): I wish to ask the First Lord of the Treasury a question in relation to business. When the Agricultural Rating Bill passed there was a direction that the Local Government Board, by Order, should make regulations; that those regulations should be laid before both Houses of Parliament; and that if neither House within ten days passed a resolution adverse to the regulations they should be binding in law. It seems that those regulations, which are very complicated and require very close attention, were laid on the Table of the House on July 28. That is nine days ago, and they were only delivered to Members yesterday. Therefore, unless they are discussed tomorrow, they cannot be discussed at all; and, apart from that, they cannot be discussed without the co-operation of the Government, because under the Standing Orders none but Government business can be taken now. I am sure the right hon. Gentleman will do all that he can; and I ask what arrangement he will be prepared to make to give us an opportunity of discussing these very important matters? [*Cheers.*]

**Dr. CLARK** said that the President of the Local Government Board in Committee suggested that the regulations should lie on the Table only ten days instead of 30, in order that they might come into force in the present year: and the suggestion was adopted on the understanding that an opportunity would be given for discussing them.

**The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY**: I am sorry that my right hon. Friend the President of Local Government Board is not able to be here to-day, that I might have the benefit of his advice. It is a surprise to me that of the ten days only one day remains, but that depends on the procedure of the House, over which I have no control, and we must make the best of the situation. In the ordinary course to-morrow would be sacred to Supply; but I feel the strength of the appeal made by the right hon. Gentleman, and I shall be willing to put down, as a Government Order, second to Supply, a Motion on which these Rules can be discussed to-morrow.

SIR W. HARCOURT: That would be a most reasonable concession, subject to the condition that Supply is not driven so late that there would be no time to discuss the regulations at reasonable length. It is a very important question.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: As far as I am concerned I shall be willing to meet that view. It is not a Government interest that Supply should be discussed, except that there should not be too many Votes left over on the last day. If the Committee will co-operate with me in getting through Supply with reasonable rapidity, I will arrange to bring on the other question at a time convenient to the right hon. Gentleman.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. DALZIEL asked whether it would be impossible for hon. Members to Divide against any of the Votes remaining over after the discussion of Supply had been brought to a close by the new Standing Order?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: It will certainly be possible for hon. Members to Divide against any Vote, though I hope it is a privilege of which they will avail themselves sparingly. [*Laughter.*] I shall endeavour to bring on the Report stage at a convenient hour next day, of those Votes which cannot be discussed in Committee. If the Committee stage is passed soon after 10 on Friday there will be time to deal that night with the Report stage.

MR. ARTHUR O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.) asked whether the London University Bill, which had just come down from the Lords, would be proceeded with?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: No, Sir; there is no idea of

*First Lord of the Treasury.*

taking it. It cannot be proceeded with if there is serious opposition.

COLONEL HUGHES asked whether the Ordnance Vote would be taken first on Friday?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY: Yes, Sir; and the Local Government Board Vote will be taken first on Monday.

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## LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) ESTATE DUTY BILL.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR, in moving for leave to introduce a Bill for paying to the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account a share of the Estate Duty, said that the Measure was merely suspensory in character. It did not appropriate money to any specific purpose, but merely provided that nine-eightieths of the sums payable under the Agricultural Rating (England) Act should be carried to the Local Taxation Account of Ireland. He hoped that any questions would be deferred until the time came for distributing the money by another Bill next Session.

Bill for paying to the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account a share of the Estate Duty, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Attorney General for Ireland; presented accordingly, and read the First time; to be read a Second time To-morrow, and to be printed.—[Bill 334.]

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## *ORDERS OF THE DAY.*

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## AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS' AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) BILL.

As amended, considered.

Clause 1,—

### CLASSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND HERITAGES FOR PURPOSES OF OCCUPIERS' RATES.

As from the fifteenth day of May next after the passing of this Act and during the continuance thereof the annual value of all agricultural lands and heritages in Scotland—

(1) shall for the purpose of the occupiers' consolidated rate leviable by county

councils, including the portion thereof leviable under the Public Health (Scotland) Acts, be held to be the nearest aggregate sum of pounds sterling to three-eighths of the annual value thereof as appearing on the valuation roll; and

(2) shall for the purpose of the occupiers' share of the poor rate, the school rate, and other rates leviable by parish councils, be held to be the nearest aggregate sum of pounds sterling to three-eighths of the annual value thereof as appearing on the valuation roll, subject to the deductions in pursuance of Section thirty-seven of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845.

Provided that where lands and heritages are classified in terms of Section thirty-six of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845, if it shall be certified by the Secretary for Scotland that the rates leviable on the occupiers of agricultural lands and heritages in pursuance of the classification are less than, or as nearly as may be the same as, the rates which would without classification be leviable on such occupiers in terms of this Act, such classification (hereinafter termed a certified classification) shall have effect, and this sub-section shall not apply.

Provided always that, in the case of any holding in a crofting parish, the Crofters' Commission in fixing a fair rent for such holding shall not be entitled to take into account the relief effected by this Act from a proportion of the consolidated rate, poor rate, and other rates before mentioned.

The expression "agricultural lands and heritages" means any lands and heritages used for agricultural or pastoral purposes only, or as market gardens, orchards, or allotments, but does not include woodlands or land occupied together with a house as a park, garden, or pleasure ground, or any land kept or preserved mainly or exclusively for sporting purposes. Provided that if any question shall arise as to the lands and heritages falling within the foregoing definition it shall be determined summarily by the sheriff, whose decision shall be final, except that where the decision is given by a sheriff substitute it shall be subject to appeal to the sheriff.

The expression "parish council" includes school board where a school rate is levied directly by a board school.

MR. CALDWELL moved to leave out Clause 1. He said, that Sub-section (1) dealt with two rates collected by County Councils in Scotland. The first was the occupiers' consolidated rate, and the second was the public health rate. The combined effect of Clause 1 and Clause 5 was that for the future classification under Section 36 and deductions under Section 37 of the Poor Law Acts were abolished. The practical effect of that would be to place the public health rate on all-fours with the consolidated rate; and as regards both rates, the valuation roll would be taken as the basis of assessment. There would only be two classes of ratepayers—the agricultural and the non-agricultural. The non-agricultural would be rated at full value and the agricultural at three-eighths of the full value. The consequence was that, as regards Sub-section 1, every occupier of agricultural and non-agricultural land in Scotland would, as far as the consolidated rate was concerned, reap the full benefit of the reductions under the Bill, while, as regards the public health rate, the occupiers of agricultural land would reap more or less benefit according as the parish was classified or unclassified. What were the purposes for which the occupiers' consolidated rates were levied? In the county of Stirling the total consolidated rate was 4½d., and of that no less than 3¼d. was levied under the Roads and Bridges Act. Hence, as regards Sub-section 1, they were dealing mainly with the roads and bridges rate. Prior to the Roads and Bridges Act the farmer who paid £300 of rent and had about 150 acres, paid as much as £40 a year in tolls; now he paid no tolls whatever, but by the present road rate in Stirlingshire he paid a rate of 3¼d. on his rental, and the amount he paid now was only £4. The large householders who used the roads very little felt aggrieved also, because they were rated at the same rate per pound as the farmer who got the main benefit of the roads. If there was to be a classification it should be to reduce the householders' contribution as regarded the road rate to 3-8ths. Another class who suffered greatly were the mill tenants and manufacturers who sent goods solely by rail, but who were assessed equally with the farmers. If they were to go on the principle of classification on a just basis, the classification should be the reverse of that in the Bill—that was to say, instead of 3-8ths to the agricultural tenant, it should be only 3-8ths to the non-agricultural tenant. In the counties they had the exact converse of the case which existed in burghs. They had the road rate which was levied mainly in the interest of those who used the roads, and if householders in counties were treated as agricultural tenants were treated in burghs, then householders in counties should be rated only on 1-4th of their valuation as regarded the road rate, which was the main rate under Sub-section 1. He felt, therefore, bound to oppose the injustice of this Bill, which not only charged the householder the full rate, but which actually let the wrong man off with paying only on 3-8ths of his valuation. And this was done out of moneys which were allocated to Scotland as Scotch moneys, belonging to every community in Scotland. It was an application of Scotch money for the purpose of relieving the wrong man in the county, the man who gets the full benefit of the rate and more than the full benefit as regards the heaviest consolidated rate of the county, the road rate. The result therefore was this, that the agricultural tenant who, before 1878 paid £40 a year for the use of the roads, by that Act his payment was reduced to £4 a year, and this Bill would reduce him to 3-8ths or 30s. a year for a farm which yielded £300 of rental for the purpose of maintaining the roads. Then on to Sub-section 2. Here also the Government had refused to reduce the amount to be given in relief to the agricultural tenant. There were Highland parishes in which the poor rate and school rate were far above the normal poor and school rates of Scotland, and this not from bad administration or any fault of the people who lived there, but simply from the circumstances of the Highlands. The result was that whilst in the more prosperous districts they might have a rate of 6d., they had a rate of about 7s. in the congested districts in the Highlands. If the Government had been going to relieve the inhabitants of those districts, they might have applied their money a little better. They might first of all have considered the case of the most neccessitous agricultural occupiers; they might have taken into consideration the case of those who were now overburdened through no fault of their own with heavy road rate, a heavy poor rate, and a heavy school rate, and yet the Government had refused any attempt made from the Opposition side of the House to show some little consideration so far as this particular section of Scotland was concerned. There could be no question that when leases fell in the benefit of the relief given would, under a system of competition rents, go to the landlords, because as they reduced the rates as a necessary consequence they would simply keep the competition at the same ratio, and the landlord would get more rent as the rates were made lower. Dealing with the argument that this Unionist Government had treated the agricultural tenant in Scotland exactly in the same way as it treated the agricultural tenant in England, he asked, what was the position of the tenant in England? The English Bill said that he should pay half the rates, but at the present time the Scottish agricultural tenant paid no more than half the rate; so that the English Bill simply brought the English tenant to the same level as the Scotch tenant. But now the Government were making the Scottish tenant pay three-fourths of the rate as against half in England. There was no Unionist principle in the matter. The present Government claimed to be a Unionist Government. But when they came to deal with the legislation of the United Kingdom, they always separated the counties into different nationalities, and always treated them as such. The only point on which they did not treat them as separate nationalities was when they went into the Division Lobby; and the author of that separatist policy was the First Lord of the Treasury. The right hon. Gentleman began the principle in 1888 in the Local Government Act for England. That was the first time the Imperial finances of the country were separated into national finances. The only illustration before that time was the Union, when the Land Tax of Scotland was separated from the Land Tax in England. It was said that classification had the effect of assessing occupiers of property upon their means and substance. He was not an advocate of classification, and he did not think that the Lord Advocate had improved the Sub-section by retaining classification, because they never could by classification bring about anything like an approach to means and substance. The Government classified all the shops together as one class, but in that class they had the most varied means and substance. The only correct principle was to take the rental of the community as a whole or to take it as a parish, and then they must make every man pay according to the rental of the parish or the county. The moment they departed from that principle, that moment they got into inextricable confusion, and injustice and great hardship were caused by dividing into different classes. Again, they had the statement of the Lord Advocate that realty in Scotland bore the whole brunt of local taxation. The Lord Advocate confounded two things—the man who paid with the amount determined by the amount of heritable property which he occupied. It was not realty that paid, it was industry that paid rent and taxes. Realty had only to determine the amount the tenant should pay out of personalty.

MR. J. McLEOD (Sutherland) called attention to that part of the grant which would go to county occupiers. He agreed with the view expressed that the county occupier had undoubtedly received considerable advantages from the Imperial Exchequer within recent years, and that there were various classes, perhaps not directly depending on agriculture, who were in very much greater need of relief than the actual agricultural occupiers. The particular point to which he wished to call attention was the inequitable manner in which the classification with regard to county rates would operate. For this purpose the counties in Scotland were to be taken as a whole. They knew well that the rates varied in each county. In certain counties they were much higher than in other counties. It was also a peculiarity of the position that it was the counties least able to bear the burden that had to bear the charges—the counties of large area, sparse population, and very low valuation. It was proposed to adopt a plan under which exactly the same relief would be given to the rich counties as would be given to the poor counties. The average Lowland community would get exactly the same amount of relief as Highland counties where the rates were higher and the people less able to pay them. In the Lowland counties, practically all the public works had been executed, many of them with money provided from the Imperial Exchequer. But in the Highland counties whole districts were without roads and they could only be provided with roads out of money from the pockets of the local ratepayers. If the House was going to subsidise local county rates they ought to give the money where it was wanted for the execution and completion of public works. Some method ought to be devised by means of which counties or districts of counties where there ought to be a large capital expenditure on public works would benefit to a greater degree under this Bill than Irish counties where public works already existed in a complete state. The small agricultural occupiers in the Highlands would not benefit at all under this Bill. The money would not go into his pockets, but into the pockets of the large capitalists. That would be the result of the particular form of classification adopted in the Bill. The clause might produce certain small advantages, but he nevertheless conceived it to be his duty to vote against it as a whole.

DR. CLARK said that he had understood the Government to have three objects in view—namely, the relief of the occupier of agricultural land, the improvement of congested districts in the Highlands and the payment of Land Tax in certain burghs. It appeared, however, now, that the Government had a fourth object—namely, the Amendment of the law with regard to the classification of lands and heritages. In reforming the law of classification the Government were at the same time professing to relieve a class of men who were doing nothing for agriculture. The English Bill only relieved agricultural occupiers, and if this Bill were going in the same way only to relieve that class in Scotland, something might be said for it.

*MR. SPEAKER: It appears to me that the hon. Member is making a Second Reading speech.

DR. CLARK said the first clause of the Bill contained in itself practically six clauses. The Bill had been so drafted that they had to discuss under this clause the proposed reform of the law of classification and the proposal to give relief to occupiers of agricultural land. Parishes where there were classifications under which agricultural ratepayers were only paying three-eighths of the rates were not to be affected by the clause. It was unfair not to treat agriculturists in Scotland exactly in the same way as they had treated agriculturists in England. He did not know that the Scotch agriculturist required assistance so much as the English; but the House was in this position, that the money which was given as an equivalent grant to Scotland in consequence of a certain grant having been made to a sdecial class in England, would not be limited to that class in Scotland. The fact was that in a great many parishes, had it not been for the Amendment of the Lord Advocate, unfortunate agricultural tenants, instead of having their burden reduced by this Bill, would actually have had it increased, for under the present classification, which was being abolished by the Bill, they would be paying less than they would when this Bill became law. They were farmers in certain parishes, who were only paying a quarter, and their burden would be increased by the Bill from a quarter to three-eighths. But, moreover, this money was not to be used exclusively for the agricultural tenants. In some parishes the money was to be used for the benefit of all ratepayers alike. And that was one of the reasons why some hon. Members objected to the clause. It was because under a Bill intended for the relief of agricultural tenants, a large portion of the relief in several districts where money was not wanted, was to be given to other ratepayers who had nothing at all to do with agriculture. He could not see any reason why these people should get this money, and nothing had been said by the Government in defence of it. This was a grant made to Scotland as an equivalent to that made to England, and it ought to be confined to the benefit of the same class of ratepayers.

Question put, "That the words of the clause to the word 'Scotland,' in line 7, inclusive, stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 137; Noes, 58.—(Division List, No. 386.)

MR. CROMBIE moved, after the word "Scotland," to insert the words "in which the rent has not been raised since the passing of this Act." The Lord Advocate, in his exceedingly clear and succinct speech, stated that whatever was the purpose of the Bill it was certainly not to put money into the pockets of the landlords. He did not, of course, doubt the right hon. Gentleman's sincerity in committing himself to that statement. But he must be endowed with an extraordinary amount of guilelessness, and he proposed the Amendment, not so much to test the sincerity of the Government, as to remove the guilelessness of the Lord Advocate. It was perfectly evident that if rents were increased after the passing of the Act one of two things must have happened—either the man who could pay the increased rent had ceased to be a distressed agriculturist, and, therefore, did not deserve relief, or the landlord had pocketed the relief. No answer had yet been given to the argument adduced over and over again that the relief must go into the landlord's pocket. So long as the present leases remained, it was perfectly true that the tenant would get the relief meant for him, but as soon as these leases fell in that relief must certainly go to the landlord. In the days of 19 years' leases this would not have mattered so much, but these leases had fallen into disfavour, and leases were now only for five years. Many of these leases would fall in during the next five years, and in all these cases the relief would go into the landlords' pockets. It had been brought out that the sort of land which would most invariably fall in first was precisely the land with which none of them had much sympathy—namely, accommodation land. In this case the landlord would receive the relief almost at once, for these lands fell in generally in a year, and often within six months. The Government had expressed sympathy with the idea of excluding accommodation land, but their difficulty was to find a definition. By accepting the Amendment they would, to a great extent, cut out accommodation land. They would also prove the sincerity of their statement that they did not want the money to go into the pocket of the landlord, and he was hopeful and expectant that the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to adopt the Amendment.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said the hon. Member could scarcely expect him to accept an Amendment moved with the object of corrupting his present state of innocence. [*Laughter.*] The question whether the relief would go to the landlord had been discussed both on this Bill and on the English Bill. In England leases were from year to year, and yet, notwithstanding that fact, there were many on the Benches opposite who confessed that they did not believe that even under that system the relief would go to the landlord. If everything could be brought to a mathematical nicety in the way of competition, there would be a great deal to be said for the position taken up by the hon. Gentleman. But that was not so, and he did not know whether he could do better than take hon. Gentlemen opposite who were landlords and ask them whether they supposed that when their leases fell out they would really take into account this not very large relief given to the tenant. What hon. Members opposite seemed never to have realised was that in the real and true sense there was a partnership in the land between the landlord and the tenant. They always looked upon these two as enemies with daggers drawn, and taking advantage of the situation whatever it might be. ["Hear, hear!"] That might possibly be the case in Ireland, but he was happy to say it was not so in England or in Scotland. He would give one reason which, without any other, would be sufficient to prevent his accepting the Amendment. By accepting it, an absolute deterrent would be put to the making of improvements by the landlord, because if he made improvements upon which extra rent was to be charged, then at once the relief given under the Bill would be withdrawn.

Sir GEORGE TREVELYAN said this was a very important question. The circumstances of England differed from those of Scotland in this matter. There was no doubt that on a well-managed English estate the sitting tenant went on from year to year at the rent he was paying before. But in Scotland rents became more commercial as the date of the lease was longer, and in the case of five, 10, and 19 years' leases the revision was a very genuine revision. Scotch farmers felt deeply on the subject. A considerable number of five years' leases would expire in the course of the next five years, and they regretted that the Government had not recognised the fact that the benefits derived from the reduction of rates would be secured to the landlords in the form of increased rents. It would be an argument of considerable force if this could be shown to have the effect of checking landlords in making improvements, but he submitted this was not likely to be the case. There were two classes of landlords' improvements, and those which consisted in making a tenant comfortable in his holding, providing proper buildings, giving him a sound roof and giving him a comfortable habitation, these were improvements for which no good landlord expected to get a special rent. But it was another matter when the improvement was a distinctly agricultural improvement, carried out by expenditure upon which a certain amount of interest had to be paid. It was well known that landlords had borrowed money to carry out such improvements and had charged the tenant an amount that went towards a sinking fund for the payment of capital and interest. This was a simple transaction between landlord and tenant, as, for instance, the charging of five per cent. on the outlay for drainage works. If the Government would accept the principle of the Amendment it would be easy to find words excepting an arrangement of this kind. He did not think the argument of the First Lord of the Treasury was a sound one against a proposal to meet what practical farmers would recognise as a grievance with regard to the Bill.

Mr. CROMBIE expressed his willingness to amend his proposal.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) appreciated the argument against the Amendment on the Paper, but if the Bill was to carry out its ostensible object, the relief of the occupiers of agricultural land, some Amendment of the kind was necessary. In Scotland rents were far more competition rents than in England, and under a system of competition rents, at any lapse or breakage of lease, or re-arrangement of reductions for the bad times, the benefit must undoubtedly go to the owner and not to the occupier. This point had been brought into stronger relief by the Amendment with regard to the crofters.

Mr. J. B. BALFOUR (Clackmannan and Kinross) moved to add to the proposed Amendment the words :—

"unless in so far as increased rent is stipulated to be paid in respect of improvements made by the landlord."

Words added to proposed Amendment.

Question proposed, after "Scotland" to insert :—

"in which the rent has not been raised since the passing of this Act, unless in so far as increased rent is stipulated to be paid in respect of improvements made by the landlord."

Dr. CLARK said he had had an Amendment of the same character, which he lost the opportunity of discussing in Committee, his object being to see that the Bill carried out the statement first made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer—namely, that so far as the Scotch Rating Bill was concerned, every precaution was taken that only occupiers should get relief and the statement of the Lord Advocate that it was in no sense a dole to landlords. There were two or three forms in which landlords might get the benefit where they were occupiers, in cases where the land was held from year to year, and then, of course, the rents would very soon be modified; and thirdly, there was the case of expiring leases, where the new rents would undoubtedly give the landlords the benefit. Certain improvements were made by the landlord and paid for by the tenant, not as rent. Under the Crofters Act he had heard of a landlord who agreed to make certain improvements on a croft, on condition that, it being a commercial transaction, he should get interest for it. The argument that it would prevent improvements by landlords did not weigh, the addition would be interest and sinking fund, and not rent, for which he supposed the landlord could sue under commercial law. If the Government refused to take any precautions to carry out the Chancellor of the Exchequer's declaration, then Members were justified in saying this was a dole to landlords just as much as the English Bill was a dole to landlords.

*Mr. Munro Ferguson.*

Question put,

"That the words 'in which the rent has not been raised since the passing of this Act, unless in so far as the increased rent is stipulated to be paid in respect of improvements made by the landlord' be there inserted."

The House divided :—Ayes, 49; Noes, 119.—(Division List, No. 387.)

On the return of Mr. Speaker, after the usual interval,

Mr. ALEXANDER CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) moved, in sub-section (1), after the word "Acts," to insert the words,—

"in so far as the amount per pound of that rate does not exceed the amount per pound at which it was levied during the financial year ending the fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six."

This Amendment had been moved on a previous occasion, and in the division the votes of the Scottish Members were in the proportion of two to one in favour of it. The practice of the Scottish people, moreover, showed that the majority were rather in favour of the Amendment and its principle. The Bill of the Government, as far as it was understood in Scotland, was something like this. They believed the assessment of Agricultural lands was to be reduced to three-eighths, and that the hole created would be filled up by money taken from Government sources, and no one would therefore be a penny the worse. He hoped that the Bill was disapproved of in principle by the Scottish people, but the majority felt that their pockets were not touched, and accordingly they had no particular objection to the Bill. But if the rate should be raised and the Government relief was stereotyped, any excess in the rate, instead of being met by a Government grant, would have to be borne by the rest of the community, and the average man in Scotland would not approve of that. A large minority of Scottish parishes had enjoyed for 50 years power to do that which by the First clause of the Bill was provided as far as the poor rate and public health rate were concerned, but few of them had used it. Therefore they would object to the principle whereby agricultural tenants should pay three-eighths and the rest of the community should have to make up the deficiency.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that this question had already been discussed in Committee and a Division taken on it. He was not moved by the considerations which had now been advanced by the hon. Member, though he believed that the Scottish people would be disposed to give effect to a policy which was consonant with the principles of justice. He feared he had nothing to add to what he had said in Committee.

MR. ROBINSON SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire) said that a certain amount of dread was felt as to the results of this legislation. It was only in accordance with human nature that people should spend money more freely than they otherwise would when the money could be spent at other people's expense. Scotchmen were no freer from that fault than other people. It should be remembered that the landowners and farmers generally exercised a preponderating power in County Councils and other rural bodies, and it was hardly to be expected that they would forego spending money when they would know that they would themselves have to provide only a fractional part of it. This was a temporary Bill, and he feared that there would be a tendency during the next five years to make hay while the sun shone. He was, therefore, sorry that the Government had not entertained favourably the request that the poor rate should be excepted. Experience showed that farmers were not to be trusted in the matter of the relief of the poor, and it was well-known that some years ago in England the farmers gave out-door relief promiscuously in the counties. When the farmers of Scotland realised that they would have to pay only three-eighths of the poor rate, they would be tempted to be free in granting out-door relief instead of paying adequate wages to the labourers.

DR. CLARK argued that, under the system of classification contemplated in the clause, the agricultural community would not pay their fair share of an increased rate.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the state of things would be the same as under the old classification.

Amendment negatived.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the next proviso, that which had been moved by the hon. Member for the Hawick Burghs, was really not in its proper place. He wanted to give it a place to itself. He therefore proposed to omit it, undertaking to insert it as a new clause later on. He begged to move to omit the following proviso :—

"Provided always that, in the case of any holding in a crofting parish, the Crofters' Commission in fixing a fair rent for such holding shall not be entitled to take into account the relief affected by this Act from a proportion of the consolidated rate, poor rate, and other rates before mentioned."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. McLEOD moved to omit from the next paragraph of the clause the words "or pastoral," so that lands used for pastoral purposes only should be excluded from the scope of the Bill. The Bill, he understood, was intended for the relief of agricultural occupiers, but the effect of the clause as it stood would be that large pastoral tenants who did not carry on any agricultural pursuits in the proper sense of the term, would get the benefit of the grant. He might observe, in reply to some criticisms passed on this Amendment when it was moved in Committee, that there were no small occupiers in Scotland whose holdings were purely pastoral. They all more or less had agricultural land which would bring them within the provisions of the Bill. This Measure being for the encouragement and relief of agriculture, that House ought not to do anything to aid men who were buying up large areas of land upon which no cultivation of any kind was being carried on. But if those who had holdings of this description chose to cultivate a certain portion of them, he should not object to their getting relief. There were pastoral farmers and owners having land, not a single acre of which was cultivated. Thousands of these acres might be under crop, and by the policy which these owners and pastoral farmers were pursuing, they were shutting out a considerable proportion of the population from occupation on the land.

*MR. J. M. WHITE (Forfarshire) supported the Amendment, because a large amount of agricultural land, as distinguished from pastoral, had gone out of cultivation in Scotland. It was, he thought, universally held that they ought to do everything in their power to encourage the highest development of the land. The more land was turned into pasture, the more labourers would be turned off the land, and on that ground he objected to this relief being given to pastoral land. Pastoral land was rated higher than agricultural land, for this reason, that supposing land was worth £2 an acre for agricultural purposes, when laid down in permanent pasture it was probably worth £3 an acre. In this way pastoral land had an undoubted advantage in the relief given. If this Amendment were carried, not only would it take relief off pastoral land, but it would leave more to be given in relief of agricultural land.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that the Amendment now proposed was somewhat different to that proposed in Committee. It was now proposed to omit the words "or pastoral," so that the clause would read "lands and heritages used for agricultural purposes only." This would not only exclude the big pastoral farmers, It would also exclude the man who cultivated a small quantity of land along with his pastoral holding. He was, therefore, afraid he could not accept the Amendment. It was impossible in a general Measure of this sort to make these distinctions, and he hoped hon. Gentlemen would forgive him if he said that this Amendment seemed to be rather an attempt to get at those gentlemen in the northern counties who had more than one holding.

DR. CLARK could not see why pastoral land should get the benefit of the Bill. What they wanted to do was to encourage agriculture and to include pastoral land would rather tend to encourage more and more the laying down of land in permanent pasture. The result of that would be to lessen the production of the land, and so to lessen its value to the community and restrict the field of labour. Two classes of land would be affected by the Amendment, namely, the permanent pastures already in existence in the south, the landlords of which were now getting an increased value, though their creation brought loss to the community at large and to those who looked to agriculture for labour. The other class of land was the large grazing tracts in the north, which were used partly for raising sheep and partly for sporting purposes. It was true that the Bill excepted land kept or preserved mainly or exclusively for sporting purposes; but it was difficult to see how the rating authority was to determine the question of whether land was mainly used for that purpose. Probably, if the sporting rent was greater than the agricultural rent, the land would be treated as mainly used for sporting purposes. At any rate, he did not want to see the value of that class of land increased. It ought to be decreased, and this Amendment might have that effect. If the Government really wanted to encourage and aid agriculture they would do all they could to give relief where it would have the effect of keeping more men on the soil. Anyone who knew anything of agriculture in England and other parts of the world would admit that the best results had been got from the old Scotch system. It secured the maximum use to the community and employed the maximum of labour. Where the English system of having permanent pastures had been developed in Scotland, it had always been bad for that country. There was nothing at all to be said in favour of the pastoral system, and he wished the Government would accept the Amendment, and so strike a blow at a system which was lessening the power of production of the Scotch soil.

MR. ROBINSON SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire) said he sympathised entirely with the economic view that had been taken of this matter. It was no doubt economically sound to say that the agricultural farm employed more men. But how would the country stand without pastoral farms now that cattle had been shut out? We must have cattle, and we must have sheep, and therefore it was beside the question to argue against pastoral land. The reason that weighed with him was that pastoral farmers had been suffering as much in the main as agricultural farmers. Hon. Gentlemen who had spoken had been judging from the pastoral farmers in the north of Scotland. No doubt many of them were very well off; but men who had been engaged in raising sheep had suffered especially. The price of sheep had not been at all good. Many sheep farmers lost money last year. In his county, certainly, there were a great many men who were accustomed to raise a few sheep, and who ought to have the benefits of the Bill if there were any to be got from it. He would not for a single moment say that his constituents ought to have doles if doles were going; he had not said that. What he said was that if farmers were to receive doles there was no more reason why the agricultural farmer should receive them than there was that the pastoral holder should receive them.

Amendment negatived.

MR. McLEOD moved, after the words "pastoral purposes," to insert the words "and upon which the occupier resides." This Amendment, he said, was also discussed to some extent in the Committee stage, but it was admitted that the form of the Amendment then was defective, with the result that there was a considerable difference of opinion. Had the form of the Amendment been as he moved it now, he believed there would have been practical unanimity. The object of the Amendment was to insure that one of the objects of the Bill should be carried out, namely, that the actual *bona fide* agricultural occupier should get the benefit. There were a very considerable number of cases where the landlord was the occupier, and as the Bill at present stood he would get the benefit. As he understood, the object of the Government was that this relief should go into the pocket of the agricultural occupier. It was a notorious fact that since the rents of sheep farms had shown a tendency to go down, a large number of owners, instead of re-letting their farms at a reduced rent to the occupier or to a new tenant, had taken the lands into their own hands, and were endeavouring to keep up rents in that way. To give these owners relief under this Bill would be to defeat one of the objects of the Bill, namely, to encourage agricultural occupiers. The Amendment moved in Committee was in such form that it would have shut out small owners who *bonâ fide* occupied their holding. This Amendment would not have that effect. The words were very nearly the same as those in the Crofters Act. In that Act Parliament decided that no tenant should get the benefit of the Act unless he resided upon his holding. His Amendment did not affect owners of agricultural holdings who were *bonâ fide* occupiers, but it would be reducing the whole proceedings under the Bill to an absurdity to propose that men in the position of His Grace the Duke of Argyll and others he could mention should participate in this relief. He did not think it could have been the intention of the Government that that should be the case, and they could therefore have no difficulty in accepting his Amendment.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he could not accept the Amendment. He would remind the hon. Member that the Act from which he had borrowed the expression, the Crofters Act, dealt with a very different matter. There the point was what persons were to have the right of being recognised by the Act, and the idea was that although they were not the owners of the soil, they represented persons who had been on an unwritten tenure from time immemorial. When that tenure was to be recognised it could be only in respect of persons who had been in *bonâ fide* occupancy of their crofts. In this case they were not dealing with personal relief, but with the question of how agricultural land was to be placed in the matter of rating, and he was afraid men like the Duke of Argyll would be just in the same position as anyone else. He did not think it was legitimate in this matter to look at the person who happened to be the occupier in his personal capacity. That was a principle which no taxing system could possibly follow. He recognised the temperate spirit in which the hon. Member had moved the Amendment, but he must refuse on behalf of the Government to accept it.

DR. CLARK regretted that the Government were not prepared to make one or two of these desirable changes. If the Amendment of his hon. Friend was adopted, no poor man could suffer. The only persons that would suffer from it were a class of pluralist farmers in the north, who had big farms, and many of them, and who by virtue of their capital had cut out the people from the soil and caused those congested districts on which the Government proposed to spend money.

DR. TANNER (Cork, Mid): Mr. Speaker, I beg to call your attention that there are not 40 Members present.

*MR. SPEAKER: I have recently satisfied myself that there are 40 Members present.

DR. TANNER: "Hear, hear! Hear, hear! Hear, hear!"

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member does not behave himself in a respectful manner, I shall have to call the attention of the House to his conduct.

DR. TANNER: Certainly.

DR. CLARK said the House was not going to legislate directly, as in the Crofters Act, for cutting down these farms, but there was the opportunity of doing something to lessen the evils resulting from that system of pluralism. These men were large capitalists; a man who spent £3,000 or £4,000 yearly in rental was probably employing capital of 10 times that amount, and these men were not the men who required any relief under the Bill. Using their capital in any other way, they would take the chances of the market, and why on earth should this class be relieved when their very existence had a baneful effect on the community. The operations of a large manufacturer had a beneficial and a healthy effect, but in farming the reverse was the result, and those landlords who had displaced the working bees for these big drones would admit that the results had been bad for the community, and often attended by financial failure.

*MR. SPEAKER reminded the hon. Member of the Amendment, which did not admit of the discussion at large of the merits of large and small farms.

DR. CLARK said the Amendment was a proposal not to pay the rates in cases where a man held more than one farm, and he was about to argue in support of this proposal that this pluralism had a baneful effect on the community. Going back to Tudor times, when there was a similar condition of things in England, the fact was recognised by legislation putting extra taxation on occupiers of more than one farm. In discouraging the system the House would be proceeding on good constitutional lines.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said if the Bill were founded on any strict and definite principle, he thought he could understand the argument addressed against the Amendment by the Lord Advocate, but he did not think there was so much principle in the Bill as to prevent the Amendment being considered from an empirical point of view. If landlords were ostracised under the Bill, as theoretically they were, he saw no reason why plural holders of farms should not be put in a similar position. It was a bad system of culture and not confined to the Highlands.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said, in reply to the remarks just made, it was to be remembered that landlords were not theoretically ostracised by the Bill, and if a landlord was in occupation and paid an occupier's rates he would get the same relief as other occupiers would get. If it was a bad system in the interest of the land itself to have the same man tenant of several farms, why did landlords let their land in that way? He was not affected by the argument that they ought to do certain things in contradiction with the principle of the Bill in order to do good in other directions, and he could not accept the principle of the Amendment.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 52; Noes, 132.—(Division List, No. 388.)

MR. H. C. F. LUTTRELL (Devon, Tavistock), moved to leave out the words "together with a house," and to insert instead thereof the words "or used." He wished all land which was occupied as a park, whether with a house or not, to pay rates to the full extent. The Bill was mainly to relieve the occupier of agricultural land, and people who owned parks ought not to have the rates reduced. As it was, the man who cultivated his land had to pay far more in rates than the man who kept his land idle for the maintenance of deer and rabbits. By implication, a park without a house was to obtain the benefit of the Bill; and that would be an encouragement to owners to keep the land idle. He supposed that the word "park" meant a park in the English sense, and it was quite possible to have a park without a house. The house might have been burnt down.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE could not accept the Amendment, because in the opinion of the Government the definition was very much better as it stood. The answer to the question of the hon. Gentleman was this—that "park" was a term which had no legal signification; it was merely a word of ordinary parlance which had to be interpreted according to the context. Moreover, if the Amendment were accepted, and the words "together with a house" left out, then "park" might mean a grass field, and that would not meet the object the hon. Gentleman had in view. Of course, there were infinite possibilities as to houses tumbling down and all the rest of it, but he was not aware of any deer-parks in Soctland not occupied together with a house. The object the hon. Gentleman had in view was fairly struck at by the clause as it stood.

MR. McLEOD thought there were certain places where they would find deer parks without a house upon them, and he instanced on the spur of the moment a case in Skye and another in Sutherland. He thought, therefore, there was something in what the hon. Gentleman had urged; at the same time he was perfectly willing to accept the assurance of the right hon. and learned Gentleman that it was certainly the intention of the Government not to allow parks of the kind described to come within the purview of the Bill.

Amendment negatived.

MR. DALZIEL moved, after the words "pleasure ground," to insert:—

> "or any land which, owing to its being situate within or to its proximity to any Burgh, as defined by the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, bears an increased value over and above its ordinary value as agricultural or pastoral land."

He said the question had been before the House on several occasions, but it was regarded by Scottish constituencies as so important, that it was the duty of Scotch Members to bring it before the House on every possible occasion. The Lord Advocate, in the previous Debate, had practically admitted the justice of the principle, but his difficulty seemed to be that it was impossible to frame a definition which would carry out the object in view. He thought it was not too much to expect that the right hon. and learned Gentleman, with his great legal experience, would be able to give them some definition which would be satisfactory to all parties. He proposed the Amendment to test the principle so far as the House was concerned, and to see whether the Lord Advocate had now made up his mind on the subject. If the House carried the Bill as it stood, he maintained that it would be taking a backward step, so far as the question of taxation of land was concerned. The First Lord of the Admiralty, in 1871, pointed out that land like that referred to in the Amendment, instead of escaping taxation, ought properly to bear increased taxation. The right hon. Gentleman said:—

> "The result of the present state of things has been that many great improvements in the Metropolis, in Liverpool, Manchester, and other large towns, has been in the last ten years at the cost of the occupiers without the landlords contributing a single shilling."

If that was true, then it was much more true at the present time, and the effect of the Bill without this Amendment would be to allow this class to escape taxation. The Royal Commission of 1884 and the Select Committee on Town Holdings in 1892 also passed recommendations that this land ought to bear more taxation, while the late Parliament unanimously passed a resolution that—

> "No system of taxation can be equitable unless it includes the direct assessment of the enhanced value of land due to the increase of population, wealth and growth of towns."

He submitted that in face of these authorities it was reasonable to ask the right hon. Gentleman to exclude this land from the advantages of the Bill. In Glasgow, for example, there were 11,861 acres, 3,500 of which consisted of building land. That land was practically paying no taxation at present to the ordinary expenses of Glasgow, and yet it was going to obtain relief under the Bill.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said he was not prepared to accept the Amendment. The subject was fully discussed in Committee in the Debates on the English Bill. He was not much moved by the excerpts which the hon. Member had read. He did not remember the exact passage quoted from the speech of the First Lord of the Admiralty, but he apprehended that the right hon. Gentleman was there dealing with capital value and the escape from taxation of land within burghs. In the same way the Resolution quoted must be taken as one entirely dealing with capital value. The hon. Member spoke about the increment value of Glasgow due to the industry of the community. He would not enter into the problem, but he believed that the increment value was nothing more than this—that a particular person who happened to hold a particular article secured an increased value through competition. He had never been able to see a distinction in principle between the right of a man who happened to own land near a town and found its value go up, and the right of a man who held cotton or any other commodity and found the market price rise. He thought that the value of the land rose, not because of the industry of the community, but because there were persons who wanted the land. According to that principle they ought just as much to tax increment in every commodity—cotton, wheat, and other articles held for the rise. But this argument dealt with capital value, which obviously had nothing to do with the Bill; the Bill had only to deal with the occupier's claim to be assessed at the agricultural value, which was being brought in at the moment. Nobody knew what agricultural value was, because it must obviously be different in different places. Agricultural value was enhanced or diminished by the advantages or disadvantages of every particular situation. It varied from year to year according to the means of transport, the water supply, and other circumstances. Accordingly, the difficulty before the Committee was not a difficulty of definition, but the difficulty that, in the nature of things, there was no standard which they could apply. To set up an arbitrary and artificial standard of agricultural value, and to say that land exceeded that standard because it was near a town or because it was supposed to have certain other advantages, would be a very inexpedient course, because it would involve complications and difficulties. He could not accept this Amendment because in his opinion it invited them to do something which was impossible.

Mr. McLEOD thought the Lord Advocate hardly showed his usual acumen when he said that he had never been able to draw any distinction between land and other commodities. The distinction was that, whilst land could not be increased or decreased by one single inch, other commodities—cotton, for example—could be increased or decreased according to the wishes of the community. The Amendment was intended to effect the release of land which was unhappily beng held back from the community for speculative purposes. The object of the Amendment was to discourage the system of holding land back with a view to obtaining an enhanced price for it subsequently. If the Government were serious in their avowed desire to benefit agriculture and to reform rating, they ought to accept this Amendment. In connection with the matter to which the Amendment related, there was no question of agricultural distress at all. The question of rating reform was alone involved. Instead of reducing local burdens upon land in the vicinity of large towns, and even villages, it would be even juster to put an extra tax upon such land, which had an enhanced value because there happened to be an industrial and industrious community in the vicinity.

Mr. J. B. BALFOUR thought the difficulties of the question could be got over by their agreeing to exclude from the scope of the Bill land in or near to any town or village, which bore exceptional value as accommodation land over and above the ordinary letting value for such land occupied as an ordinary farm. It was a moot point in some quarters whether it was better as a matter of policy to rate an object upon some estimate of its capital value, or to rate it upon its letting value as estimated by the rent if it was let; or, if it was not let, upon an estimate of what it would realise, taking one year with another. Scotland had adopted the second of these methods. He did not understand that the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy meant to limit his case to capital value, but undoubtedly the words of the Amendment would cover capital value. They might, therefore, be viewed as words intended to introduce an entirely novel basis for rating. It was to meet that criticism that he supported the alteration which he had mentioned. One of the objections of the Lord Advocate to his hon. Friend's proposal would be met if they were to agree to consider lettable value as implying annual value. A standard of comparison might be arrived at by comparing the letting value of accommodation land with the ordinary lettable value of land occupied as an ordinary farm. This problem ought not to be given up as insoluble, and he submitted that what he had proposed came, at all events, pretty near to a solution. The words he had put on the Paper had been framed with considerable regard to what men called town parks. Those who had to judge whether a particular piece of land fell within a definition or not, would, he imagined, go to look at the land; and if they came to the conclusion that it had urban uses, and so got a differential rate, they would then classify it as land falling within the exception, and he submitted that that should be so.

MR. HALDANE thought that the Amendment provided a definition of accommodation land which was sufficient for practical purposes. The problem was not insoluble, as was clear from an admission made by important supporters of the Government on the English Rating Bill. The hon. and learned Member for Stroud laughed at the notion that it was not possible to frame a definition of this kind of land. His right hon. Friend had, he thought, suggested a definition which would be interpretable by any ordinary tribunal. Where he was not sure that he was in agreement with his right hon. Friend was in the notion that, because this land could be defined, the lands referred to by his hon. Friend the Member for Kirkcaldy ought to be excluded from the scope of the Amendment. This was a Bill for the relief of agricultural distress. It proposed to afford that relief by giving to the land which was subject to agricultural distress exemption from a portion of the rates. It was said by the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy that at all events land which was near a town, and which, though not let at a high rent, had an excess capital value over the market value, owing to its proximity to a centre of population, ought to be excluded from the Bill. It was true, as his right hon. Friend said, that land of an increased letting value was clearly on a different footing to agricultural land. He wanted to know why land, the capital value of which had increased by the movement of population in its vicinity, was not also in the same position? It was land which did not come within the class of land the Bill sought to relieve. He was assuming that the principle of the Bill was right, but why should it be applied to land in the neighbourhood of towns, which had a capital value much in excess of the ordinary agricultural value? Why did the owner leave it in the category of agricultural land? Because he believed that as time went on he would get more and more for it, and would get a capital value far in excess of the number of years' purchase of ordinary agricultural land. For these reasons, it seemed to him that in such land they had got something, not only the subject of definition, but something which it would be a wrong to the taxpayers of the country to bring within the category of lands to be the subject of a special tribute; and he would be glad to see the House accept the Amendment, because they would only be doing an ordinary act of justice to the community.

*MR. ALEXANDER URE (Linlithgow) said the Lord Advocate did not oppose the Amendment as being against the principle of the Bill, which was to rectify the inequalities in rating. The right hon. Gentleman would be quite willing to admit the Amendment if he could realise a standard by which land which did acquire an adventitious value could be distinguishd from land with an ordinary agricultural value. The right hon. Gentleman went further and said that, if he could only get this standard, he did not despair of the draftsman being able to frame a clause which would meet the desire of Members on the Opposition side of the House. What was wanted was to ascertain whether a particular piece of land really was of the average value of agricultural land in the district, or had some adventitious value. It did not appear to him that there was any serious difficulty in ascertaining the difference, because they did find in a district that the average value of purely agricultural land was easily ascertained and well known to experts; and, on the other hand, that land which had acquired an adventitious value was equally easily ascertainable. Indeed, the Lord Advocate, in the latter part of this very clause, provided a means for ascertaining within what category a particular land should be placed. The Amendment would in no way interfere with the principle of the Bill, and he hoped it would be accepted.

Dr. CLARK, while supporting the Amendment, thought that not only should they refuse to give this aid where there was an increased annual value, but also where there was an increased capital value. Surely the Lord Advocate ought to be moved by the consensus of opinion which existed among the leaders of both Parties. The Commission which sat 12 years ago, and which contained many representative men, was unanimous in making this recommendation, and nothing had yet been done to carry it out. There had also been a unanimous expression of opinion on the part of the House in the same direction. He read the speeches of a great many Unionist candidates last year, and they were all very strong on this question, though, perhaps, these gentlemen had now changed their minds. He did not know whether the Lord Advocate pledged himself to it.

*The LORD ADVOCATE: I pledged myself to nothing.

Dr. CLARK said he was afraid that the right hon. Gentleman was about the only candidate in the north and west of Scotland who did not pledge himself to this principle. This land had an annual value apart altogether from the ordinary agricultural value, and the class of men who held this land were not, in the ordinary sense of the term, farmers or agriculturists. A large portion of the land was in the hands of cow feeders and dairymen. The value of land was determined by two elements. The first was the value of the soil, and that the Amendment would not touch; then there was the value given by the site, and it was that value that they wanted to exempt from the operation of the clause. They wanted to exempt that class of land, both in respect of annual value and capital value, from having any benefit under this Bill, because Parliament and all the Select Committees and Royal Commissions that had been appointed had recommended them to take that course.

Mr. JAMES BAILLIE (Inverness-shire) desired to point out to the right hon. Member for Clackmannan, that the Amendment might cause a considerable amount of hardship in some cases. For instance, on his own property he had a considerable number of crofters close to the town of Inverness, and he had no doubt that the capital value of that land, if he were to sell it for building purposes, would be very much enhanced owing to its proximity to Inverness. But he thought it would be very hard on those crofters that they should be deprived of the benefits of this Bill.

Mr. J. B. BALFOUR said the hon. Member's point was that there might be capital value in certain lands which would not show itself in the rental. It was for that precise reason that he framed his Amendment so as not to touch capital value.

Mr. JOHN DILLON (Mayo, E.) said this was a repetition of the struggle they had had in reference to Irish land, and it was hard to realise that, while Members of the Government in another place were arguing in favour of the principle of accommodation land having distinct treatment, Members of the same Government, and at the same time, in the House of Commons, adopted the opposite attitude, declaring they could not provide a definition.

*The LORD ADVOCATE said the hon. Member was probably absent during the discussion, or he would know that he (the Lord Advocate) never said it was impossible to supply a definition.

Mr. DILLON said as he understood, the difficulty of the right hon. Gentleman in the way of consenting to the Amendment was that it was impossible to fix a standard for accommodation land. In relation to accommodation land or town parks in Ireland the difficulty, apparently, did not exist at all. The princple had full operation in the Irish Act. The term as applied to land that bore additional value from the fact of its proximity to a town was well known in legislation, and had led to exemption from the Irish Land Act. It was monstrous that a Bill intended for the relief of agricultural distress should apply to accommodation land, as to which there had been no fall in rent or value, and there was no ground upon which such land could claim any share in the relief granted by the Bill.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said his right hon. Friend had described himself as being in the happy, and, it might be said, the unique position of having pledged himself to nothing. He was the only Member of the Government in the House who could honestly make this avowal, and he was to be congratulated on his position. Ever since he (Mr. Robertson) had been in the House—eleven Sessions—he had been pledged to protest against a system whereby land in or near a great town was rated and valued as available for agricultural purposes only, while, in fact, it was held for building purposes, and withheld from the market for the sake of obtaining a higher price. One obvious consequence of this was to produce congestion in the town, and so it was in Dundee, where thousands of people were huddled together in one particular part of the town paying high rents for very meagre accommodation. The question before the House was whether this kind of land, treated with such monstrous partiality by the present system, should have the special relief provided by the Bill. Why should it have this special privilege? His right hon. Friend, whose ingenuity was only equalled by his courtesy, had, night after night, thrown out one principle after another in defence of the Bill. With all his ingenuity, the Lord Advocate had not mentioned one reason which justified opposition to the Amendment. He should vote for the Amendment in defence of a principle which no single Liberal or Liberal Unionist in Scotland would be prepared to deny.

*COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) thought that in all the arguments used by the hon. and learned Gentleman who had spoken, they had erred in treating the question as one solely connected with landlords. They were endeavouring to put into the Bill provisions for dealing with a certain class of landlords. He thought the hon. and learned Gentleman had been pouring water on a drowned mouse. No one on this side had any sympathy with landlords who prevented towns from extending, or otherwise used their power, detrimentally to the public interest in connection with their lands. One of his election pledges was to deal with that state of things as soon as possible. It was right, however, that the House should clear its mind thoroughly on the subject, and recognise that the special provisions had nothing to do with the landlords. The hon. Member for East Mayo erred in thinking there was any similarity between the Government Measures affecting town parks in Ireland and those affecting accommodation lands in Scotland. In Ireland it was a question between tenant and landlord, while in Scotland it was simply between tenant and taxpayer.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said that land round towns was invariably held for a period not longer than a year, and generally not longer than six months. Whereas most Scotch Members on the Ministerial side of the House were pledged to increase the taxation on land of this character, the Government proposals would lighten that taxation.

MR. J. G. HOLBORN (Lanark, N.W.) said that this land was not held in any sense as agricultural land, nor was it held on lease. The bulk of it, moreover, was in the hands of the proprietors themselves, and not in the hands of tenants. There was a strong feeling in Scotland that this land should not be rated at its annual value, but at the landlord's estimate of its rateable value. There was a fair claim for some concession from the Government. It was not that the Lord Advocate could not fix a standard; it was that the Government were unwilling. However, it was not too late yet for the Lord Advocate to make some concession on this point, even if it was more limited in character than the Amendment of the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted.'

The House divided:—Ayes, 61; Noes, 143.—(Division List, No. 389.)

*MR. URE moved, after the word "final," ("whose decision shall be final") to leave out the words "except where the decision is given by a Sheriff-substitute it shall be subject to appeal to the Sheriff." He said that he entertained a very strong preference in favour of the machinery as provided in the Bill when originally drafted. He had a strong preference, also, for the decision on this simple question being pronounced by the Sheriff substitute and his judgment being accepted as final. It was providing far too elaborate, expensive, and tedious a procedure to give appeal against the decision of the Judge of first instance on the question whether lands were agricultural lands or not, when the question was susceptible of ready and easy ascertainment by the Sheriff-substitute, who was resident on the spot. He had simply to go to the lands, see them, and give his judgment. In 99 cases out of 100 it would be unnecessary for the Sheriff-substitute to take any evidence at all. It would be sufficient for him to see the lands and decide the question there and then, and it would be desirable that his decision should be made final. This was not a question of principle, but a question of fact and circumstances; and there was no risk whatever of diverse principles being settled in the various Sheriff Courts of Scotland. He did not propose to move the Amendment on the Paper, but to move his Amendment in the above form, the effect of which would be to restore the clause to the shape in which it was originally presented to the House.

MR. J. B. BALFOUR supported the Amendment on the ground that it was highly important that disputed questions should be determined speedily.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that, as hon. Members wished apparently to revert to the original form of the Bill, he was quite ready to accept the Amendment.

MR. CALDWELL observed that, though he was responsible for the change made in the clause in Committee, he should not oppose the Amendment.

DR. CLARK believed that the people generally would be better satisfied with the decisions of the Sheriff-substitute than with those of the principal sheriff.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4,—

APPLICATION OF PAYMENT TO LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND) ACCOUNT.

The sums paid to the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account under this Act in respect of any financial year shall be applied by or under the direction of the Secretary for Scotland in manner following (that is to say):—

(1.) In paying to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue the sums payable during that year for land tax by Royal burghs and burghs of barony or regality in Scotland; and in paying to any burgh a sum equal to the annual amount of the land tax redeemed by such burgh; and

(2.) In transferring to an authority to be hereafter determined by Act of Parliament the sum of fifteen thousand pounds for the Improvement of Congested Districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, such sum to be applied as may be provided in the said Act, and until so applied to remain to the credit of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account; and

(3.) In distributing the balance among county councils and parish councils in Scotland in proportion to the amounts ascertained and certified as hereinbefore provided, for the purpose of regulating such distribution.

(4.) Every sum paid or payable under this Act out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account to any authority in respect of any rate shall for all purposes be deemed to have been raised or to be raisable from occupiers by the said rate.

MR. McLEOD moved, in Sub-section (2), to leave out the words "Congested Districts." He said that people in the Highlands had no knowledge of the term "congested district," which had been imported from the sister isle. He thought that the inclusion of that expression might hamper the authority charged with the application of the money. If the words were left out the object of the Government would not be interfered with, and a large body of public opinion would be satisfied.

Question put, "That the words 'congested districts in' stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 135; Noes, 54.—(Division List, No. 390.)

*MR. URE moved to omit Clause 5. His object, he said, was to insure to parish councils in Scotland the powers which they at present possessed of apportioning the rate amongst the various classes of ratepayers according as they thought just and equitable. This was the clause which provided that classification from the date when the Act came into operation should cease, and accordingly it was the proper point at which to raise the question whether they were going to deprive the parish councils of Scotland of this important function. It was a power which had been possessed by the predecessors in title of the present parish councils, the old parochial boards, for a period of upwards of half a century. It was a power which they had exercised without any complaint of harshness or injustice. He did not for a moment doubt that opinions would differ as to the propriety, expediency, and perhaps even the justice of the various classifications which had been adopted in the 158 classified parishes in Scotland. But he did not think it could be fairly alleged that the parochial boards, much less the parish councils, had been guilty of any gross injustice in their exercise of this power, or of any act which would warrant their deprivation of this power, at all events at this stage. Indeed, it could hardly be alleged that injustice had been committed, because the powers could only be exercised with the assent and approval of the Board of Supervision, now the Local Government Board of Scotland, a body which had exercised this function in a way which elicited yesterday from the Lord Advocate the very highest encomiums. Therefore they inquired with some surprise why it was that in this Bill, with its long and complicated title, which disclosed no such design as was here sought to be put in force, they should deprive parish councils of their power of classification. The sole objection to the Amendment which had been urged by the Government in committee, was the preservation of the *status quo ante*. Hon. Gentlemen opposite would not be surprised to know that the preservation of the *status quo ante*, abstractly considered, did not exercise a singularly magnetic effect on that side of the House. They were not subscribers to the theory that it was preferable to do a stupid thing which you had done before rather than a wise thing which you had never done before, and, whilst they condemned change for the mere sake of change, they were equally strong in their objection to being stationary for the mere sake of standing still. At the same time they recognised that the Bill emanated from a Conservative Government, and had been supported throughout by Conservative majorities, with whom, very naturally, the principle of *status quo ante* had a much more alluring and seductive effect than it could possibly have upon members on his side of the House. Accordingly, if, upon fair examination, the Bill had disclosed the principle of a desire to maintain the *status quo*, they should have accepted that probably in the present condition of affairs as quite a sufficient answer to their objections. He thought the Solicitor General understood what Members on that side meant by the *status quo*, as they understood what he meant, and it would serve no good purpose to go on deliberately misunderstanding each other. Each side claimed to champion the *status quo*, the one side claiming it to mean the maintenance of the existing law, the other, the maintenance of the system of classification now existing. But even understanding the *status quo* as expressed by the Solicitor General, the existing classification, the Bill did not contain that principle. For description of the true aim and objects of the Bill the prosaic language of every-day English had been abandoned and metaphor resorted to. The region of biological classification had been entered upon, and even then they had failed to find a species or class adequate to describe this nondescript, kaleidoscopical Measure. But of all principles which at one time or another had been claimed as underlying the Bill, the maintenance of the *status quo* was the most ridiculously wide of the mark. What was the *status quo*? This and only this. In more than three-fourths of the parishes in Scotland all classes of land were rated alike, and in the remaining parishes this property was separated into distinct categories, diverse no doubt but alike in this, that agricultural land was rated lower than its rent as appearing on the valuation roll. What did the Bill propose to do? As originally presented, the Bill made a very serious inroad on the present state of affairs. It proposed in the first place to knock on the head all classification, and to substitute in every parish in Scotland a compulsory statutory classification uniform throughout all rating districts. He would not argue whether that was right or wrong, but no one could dispute that it was a very serious innovation on the *status quo*. Between the Second Reading and the Committee Stage, the Lord Advocate in deference to the views of the Opposition perhaps, but certainly not with the hearty approval of hon. Members behind him, introduced a radical change in the Measure as originally presented to the House and retained all classification where he found agricultural land rated as low as the magical three-eighths. He agreed that the relief given under the Bill had nothing to do with classification; but it was just for that reason that he could not comprehend why the Lord Advocate was so rigidly hostile to the preservation of the present powers of the Parish Councils. If there were no objection to preserving existing classifications, what was the objection to adding new classifications? He contended that they had heard no justification whatever for depriving Parish Councils of the powers in question. It might be said that Parish Councils had not yet exercised the powers and that parochial boards had only exercised them to a comparatively limited extent. His answer to that was that the Parish Councils had scarcely yet had time to realise their powers, but after this discussion they would wake up to the very important powers which they at present possessed of apportioning parochial burdens, equitably as they thought, among the various classes of ratepayers. But, if they were not going to exercise the powers, what in the world were the Government afraid of?

MR. McLEOD cited, by way of illustration, the case of a parish in Inverness-shire. In that case, under the operation of the Bill as originally brought in, the position of the agricultural occupiers would not have been altered to any material extent, but the classification operated against the small householders; and unless an Amendment had been moved this result would have remained. But during the next five years, in all probability the Parish Councils might desire to vary the inter-classification. They would have no desire to interfere with the valuation of the agricultural occupiers, but possibly they might wish to make some slight alteration as between the other classifications. He was not clear whether Parish Councils in the position he had indicated would have the power during the next five years to vary the inter-classification so long as they did not interfere with the three-eighths dealt with in the Bill.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said, they would not have that power. The Government looked upon the Bill as the precursor of a general financial reform, and they proposed to suspend classifications during the five years of the continuance of the Measure. There was no thought of distrusting Parish Councils. As there was no pressing necessity for further classifications, it was reasonable to suspend the power of making them until the whole question could be dealt with in a uniform manner. Any uniform system would probadly arouse local prejudice where it clashed with local systems. Therefore it was desirable that to the different classifications existing already there should not be added others, based perhaps on no very consistent principles and due to the possibly transient views of persons who happened to be the majority for the time being.

Question put, "That the words of the clause to the word 'any,' in page 4, line 9, stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 131; Noes, 52.—(Division List, No. 391.)

*THE LORD ADVOCATE moved, "That the Bill be read the Third time."

SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN remarked that no one who had general sympathy with his colleagues in the House would put any hindrance in the way of this Bill being read a Third time to-night if the House of Commons wished it. They had now come to the end of proceedings, which had been good humoured, but thoroughly in earnest on both sides, and he hoped they would continue to be good humoured to the end. He and Members on his side of the House thought that Scotland had not been well treated in this matter. The three countries had had three Bills this year. England had had a rating Bill which, whatever they on that side of the House might think of it, was accepted and supported by an enormous majority of English Members. Ireland had had a Land Bill which was supported, he believed, by only about one-eighth of the representatives of Ireland. On the other hand Scotland was put off with this Bill which, on the Second Reading, received only about two-fifths of the support of the Scottish Members, being opposed by the remainder. The point was what the feeling of Scotland was, as given through her representatives, on the very important questions of detail in this Bill. When his hon. Friend the Member for Dundee moved that the provisions of the Bill should apply only for two years instead of five, 31 Scotch Members voted for him and 16 against. When the Member for Kincardineshire moved that future rates should be levied as they were levied now, instead of being levied the whole on occupiers of house property and three-eighths on the occupiers of land, he was supported by 31 Scotch Members to 17. The hon. Member for Sutherlandshire moved that agricultural land should pay one-half instead of three-fifths, and he was supported by 28 Scotch Members to 14; and on the extremely important Motion of his hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock for excepting accommodation land, he was supported by 32 Scotch Members to 16. He thought those were rather serious figures, as showing that Scotch opinion on the most important details of this Bill had not been consulted. This Bill established classification everywhere. In Scotland there were two classes of modification of rating. One was deduction which might be said to be universally popular. It was obligatory, but it was carried out *con amore* by all the parochial boards. Deduction gave an advantage to houses as against the land. But classification, so far from being popular in Scotland, was adopted only by 166 parishes out of 900. There was no demand for this Bill in Scotland. It was a mere afterthought. At the end of five years they would revert to the old conditions, with all sorts of new interests and new combinations, new habits and new proceedings, all of which would have to be abandoned the moment this Bill came to an end. They objected to what they could not but consider the scant honesty of the clause, in which it was said that the rate-in-aid came out of the Estate Duty on real property. It came not from the Estate Duty, but from the entire body of the taxes. They had contended, and they would contend until the Bill was out of the House of Commons, that there was no special agricultural distress in Scotland. Since the Debate began, a Blue-book had been issued by the Commission on Agricultural Depression. That Blue-book proved that Scotch estates were in an entirely different position to English estates. On the immense Scotch estates the fall in rent had been very small indeed. The Blue-book also proved that the net income of the Scotch landlords was very much larger generally than the net income of English landlords. But there was one class of landlords in Scotland for whose benefit he and his friends especially objected to the taxpayers being called upon to pay, and that was the class who had not proceeded cn the principle of reducing the gross rental. It was for such purposes that the people of the great burgh constituencies were to be taxed. They were to be taxed, and they would get nothing back but a mere pittance. It was not these constituencies only; in every county there were large numbers of men considerably exceeding in number the agriculturists—weavers, coal miners, shopkeepers—who would get nothing of this relief, which would go altogether in a partial and privileged manner. In so doing, it established an injustice against which they felt bound to protest. But there was a wider idea in their minds than this. They regretted the unfortunate system of doles from the Exchequer which had already gone to such an extent, which had already demoralised the ratepayers, and which had already excited hopes which he trusted would never be gratified. They regretted deeply that this ill-omened system had been carried further. They saw in Scotland that this system would result in extravagance, and they looked with dissatisfaction on the moral character of the Scotch ratepayer being somewhat impaired and the old method of thrift relaxed. He begged to move that the Bill be read a Third time that day three months.

MR. HALDANE denied that the Bill was one for the effectual removal of agricultural distress. So far as any real benefit to the class they professed to relieve was concerned, they might as well throw the money into the Forth or Clyde. What the farmer wanted was not his rates helped, but his rents reduced. He did not say that the House could give the farmer what he desired, but this Bill constituted no substantial measure of relief. It altered materially the existing system of rating in Scotland; it abolished the freedom of classification — that freedom to rate people according to their ability to bear the rates, which had been recognised as a just principle, and which till now had been the salient feature of the rating system of Scotland. Surely, they should have consulted Scotland first as to this sum of money, but they did not do so, because there was an ulterior purpose. He believed that the real motive of the Bill was to mangle the new Parish Councils. The Parish Councils had taken the place of the old Parochial Boards, on which those who had rights or privileges which they did not wished interfered with were represented. But the new system of Parish Councils had been established, and hon. Members opposite professed to be as strongly in favour of it as they were, and yet they now introduced a Bill to take away from these bodies the most important power they had of rating people according to their ability to bear the rates. He feared that they were taking away these powers in mistrust of the men who exercised them, but, as anybody who was acquainted with the Parish Councils of Scotland knew, a greater mistake could not be made. As one of the majority of Scotch Members opposed to this Bill, he begged to Second the Motion.

*MR. WYLIE said that he desired to remove some misapprehension in respect of his position with regard to this Bill which appeared to exist in the mind of the hon. Member for Leith, and other hon. Members opposite, who had said that he was one of the supporters of the Government who did not support the proposal that the Bill should be immediately proceeded with.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said that his words were that the hon. Member had stated that he would have preferred a full to a half measure upon the subject.

*MR. WYLIE said he had stated that under normal conditions he would have preferred to have waited for the Report of the Commission on Rating, but, as he had strongly expressed during the different stages of the Bill, he cordially supported the present Measure on account of the entirely exceptional depression of agriculture in Scotland as compared with the other leading industries. In order to arrive at an accurate conclusion as to the progress or decadence of any industry, and its position relative to other industries, we must note the facts throughout their whole areas and over a considerable period of years. Hon. Members opposite had taken only the small areas and short periods coming within the narrow scope of their own recent personal observations, but, if they took the wider view, he was sure they would come to the same conclusion as he had. He entirely concurred with the observation of the right hon. Member for Bridgeton that agricultural distress in the Lowlands of Scotland was not so severe as it was in the English counties. He believed that the greatest mistake that had been made in regard to this Bill was the adding to Clause 1 the Amendments which had been made by the Lord Advocate. Many hon. Members opposite had professed a great admiration for the system of classification. They had spoken of it as being both scientific and just; but his experience of it had been that it was the very reverse of scientific and most unjust. With all its errors and omissions, he believed this to be an admirable Bill, and one which would be a standing monument to the ability, skill, and tact of the Lord Advocate. He gave it his hearty assent.

*MR. HEDDERWICK wished to acknowledge the skill, ingenuity, and unfailing courtesy exhibited by the Lord Advocate in conducting this Measure; but when he had said that, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not misunderstand him if he added that a drearier or more unnecessary Measure had never been introduced. The only particular in which it touched on common humanity was that portion which dealt with the crofters of the Western Highlands. The idea contained in Clause 4 was, no doubt, an admirable one, as setting forth apparently the wish of the Lord Advocate and the Government to do something for those congested districts; but the means which had been adopted were of the most feeble description. It was proposed to devote the sum of £15,000 to cure the congestion, but that sum was utterly inadequate, and he could not help wondering whether the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies was ever consulted on that part of the Bill during its incubation. If he was, he must have changed very much within recent years, for he recollected the time when the right hon. Gentleman took a deep interest, or what appeared to be a deep interest, in the forlorn and penurious lot of the Highland crofter. It seemed but the other day that the right hon. Gentleman undertook a pilgrimage to what he called the misty islands of the north, either to paint in his masterly way the sorrows of the inhabitants or to acquaint himself with the nature of their social problems—he didn't know which, and it was, perhaps, now of little consequence. But, at all events, the right hon. Gentleman left behind him hopes, inflated by sympathetic words and by suggested Measures of relief never destined, he feared, to be realised through the instrumentality of the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman was now a Member of the Government that offered these suffering people the munificent sum of £15,000. To what purpose was that fund to be applied? The Lord Advocate did not know. His mind, he said, was open on the subject. He (Mr. Hedderwick) could admire an open mind so long as it was not a mere vacuity. The money, the Lord Advocate declared, had been well considered. Surely then he must have in his mind the purpose that exercised his consideration and enabled him to arrive at so nicely calculated a sum. The country was entitled to know something of the purpose for which this sum of money, apparently so inadequate for any real efficacious relief, was destined. The Lord Advocate only enlightened them to this extent — that he admitted its inadequacy, and said it was to be a nucleus. A nucleus for what? Would a nucleus fill an empty stomach or give an acre to a landless man? The whole idea of curing the congested districts of Scotland by a gift of £15,000 was an absurdity, and he should like to throw out a friendly challenge on the subject to the Lord Advocate. Would he leave the pleasant shores of Bute and go up to the Highlands of Scotland; would he visit the constituencies that were addressed with so much alluring eloquence by the Secretary to the Colonies, and seek the suffrages of the people upon his nucleus of £15,000? He could imagine the scene — the Lord Advocate with his loaves and fishes and the multitude waiting for the miracle. Why should the Government invite starving men to so Barmecidal a feast? It was a cruel farce, to which he would be no silently acquiescing party. If the Government were bent npon devoting the money at their disposal to the relief of agricultural distress, they had enough to make their relief in this direction real. The opportunity was a golden one. Why should they have persistently declined it? There was another ground of objection against the Bill; the people of Scotland had never been consulted upon it, and what would happen would be this: The grant would be received without gratitude; the money would be expended without satisfaction, and the people of Scotland would feel justified in supposing that the Government did not really understand the wants of those for whom they were legislating.

Mr. E. ROBERTSON said he proposed to call attention to one or two points that had not been adverted to in previous discussions. The Bill had the longest description of any Measure that had passed through the House, and yet this portentous title was absolutely ineffective in its description of the Bill. The House had been directly and definitely forbidden to extend the relief of rates to subjects other than agricultural land, but that which they were not allowed to do the Government itself had done in the Bill, and this Bill which professed to give relief to agricultural land gave relief to subjects other than agricultural land, and did so in a partial and utterly unprincipled way. The Government had done on a small scale that which he and his friends proposed to do as a matter of principle in the first instance. In its language the title did not give a correct description of the Bill, and he thought it was a result of the Rules of the House, of which they had a right to complain, that that which the House could not do as matter of principle, the proposers of the Bill could do as matter of convenience. Another point he wished to advert to was the connection of the Measure with the mighty programme with which the Government approached the House at the beginning of the Session. This was one of a trilogy of Measures which the Government were going to carry away as the result of their Parliamentary Session, the English Rating Bill, this Bill, and the corresponding Measure for Ireland. [AN HON. MEMBER: "And the Irish Land Bill!"] Of the Irish Land Bill he would say nothing. The three Measures for England, Scotland and Ireland were parts of a whole. In the title of the Bill would be seen what the Government chose to regard as its substance and effect; but what was the pretence with which the whole scheme was laid before the House at the beginning of the Session? Once again he read a sentence of the Queen's Speech to contrast the Bill with the pretence of the Government. The President of the Local Government Board changed sides more than once in the conduct of his Measure—he could instance it; and the Lord Advocate had changed horses at every stage of his Bill, so that now it was difficult to say upon which animal he was riding home. What did the Government undertake to introduce? Mark the difference between the programme and the performance. Her Majesty was made to say "I regret to say that the position of agriculture is disastrous"—disastrous! let the hon. Member for Dumbarton note that—"beyond any recent experience." It was the hon. Member for Dumbarton who stood up for agricultural distress at this stage, but would he contend that this language of exaggeration truly described the position of agriculture in Scotland? But this was not the sentence in the Queen's Speech to which he wished to call special attention.

> "Measures will be laid before you of which the object will be to mitigate the distress under which the classes labour that are engaged in that industry."

["Hear, hear!"] Did hon. Members cheer that as a description of this Measure? What classes were engaged in the industry in Scotland? There were three. The landlords were a small class who were bound to get some, and in the end would get all, the benefit from the Act. There was a larger, but still small, class of tenant-farmers, who would get some benefit for a time; but the largest class of all were the agricultural labourers, and he appealed to Members who had sat through these Debates to say if the agricultural labourers of Scotland had been so much as once mentioned. The agricultural labourer had no concern in the Bill. He had just as little interest in it as the artisan of the towns. He did not get a farthing of the £200,000 a year of which as an individual he had as much right to a share as any farmer or landlord in the land. The Bill was past praying for now so far as the House of Commons was concerned. Normally there was no hope that the decision of the House would be reversed in another place. But recent events had shown that, even in the time of a Unionist Government, they could find in the House of Lords a Court of Appeal. [*Opposition cheers.*] He hoped that same spirit of independence with which he sympathised would induce the Lords to reform this Bill.

MR. MCLEOD said the intention of the Bill was, as far as possible, to render nugatory the Finance Bill of 1894. Besides, Scotland did not get under the Bill her fair share of the money. Scotland was not getting her fair share, and the Bill proposed to divide the money in a particular way, and to give a certain sum to relieve the borough land tax, which should be charged on the Imperial Treasury, and not on any special Scotch equivalent grant. There was an important new departure in the Bill. Hitherto, when special grants had been given to the Highlands for the relief of distress, the Imperial Exchequer had been called upon to find the money inasmuch as the Imperial Parliament was responsible for the laws that produced the distress; but now, England was taking good care the Imperial Exchequer was no longer to be called upon to make up any money that might be required. This new departure would not commend itself to the majority of the Scotch people, and if it was any criterion of the kind of legislation which Scotland was to get during the continuance of the present Parliament, it was not in accordance with the election pledges of hon. Members from Scotland. He had gone through the whole of their election addresses. [*Laughter.*] They were simply endeavouring to render nugatory the legislation passed in the last Parliament.

Question put, "That the word 'now,' stand part of the Question."

The House divided :—Ayes, 124; Noes, 45.—(Division List, No. 392.)

The announcement of the figures was received with Ministerial cheers.

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## WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY GUARANTEE BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

On the Question, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill,"

MR. H. C. F. LUTTRELL (Devon, Tavistock) moved to report progress. The Bill before them was full of contentions, and there were a large number of Amendments to it, and he thought that to ask the Committee to commence the consideration of such a Measure at that hour of the morning was somewhat unreasonable.

*Mr. McLeod.*

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he quite sympathised with the desire of the hon. Gentleman to go to bed—a desire which he shared—but he thought the hon. Member would feel that the Committee might make a little exertion to get through the Bill. It was put down in accordance with the understanding that they would be allowed to take the Third Reading of the Scotch Rating Bill and this stage of this Bill. He was not suggesting for a moment that it was a breach of faith, but there was a discussion last night across the floor of the House as to the general course of business to-night, and he certainly was given to understand that they should be allowed to get to-night the Third Reading of the Scotch Bill and the West Highland Bill. There was certainly an informal view expressed which justified the Government in hoping they would get the Bill to-night.

MR. DALZIEL said there were Amendments on the Paper in the names of three or four hon. Members, and not one of those Members were consulted with regard to the suggested understanding. He put it seriously to the right hon. Gentleman whether at this time of the morning it would not be wise to adjourn. There were many points of contention, and if they divided on all the Amendments they would be sitting at five o'clock. He should not think it fair for the Government to overload their programme so that they had to keep Members at the House all day and all night. He would much rather extend the Session another fortnight than be called to sit up so late night after night. He was sure that if the right hon. Gentleman met them now they would not be unreasonable when the Bill was put down on another occasion.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said his impression was that it was arranged there should be no opposition to the Third Reading. There was considerable opposition to the Railway Bill, but he understood the opposition to the Scotch Votes would not be very prolonged.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said he hoped they would make some little progress, otherwise he was afraid they must have a Saturday sitting.

DR. CLARK said it would be better to have a Saturday sitting than to rush the Bill through at that hour of the morning.

MR. T. P. WHITTAKER (York, W.R., Spen Valley) also objected to the Bill being discussed at that hour.

MR. McLEOD said the Scotch Members had been kept there for the convenience of the Government. They had dealt with one Bill, and now they were asked to go on with another.

MR. WARNER, who was heard with difficulty amid ironical cheers and cries of "Divide," objected to the Bill being taken as it affected English as well as Scotch Members, and a considerable number of the English Members had had to go away from sheer exhaustion. He did not think it was fair to ask them to take these Amendments, which would take a considerable time to discuss.

MR. McLEOD said the Amendment of the Chancellor of the Exchequer which had been referred to would practically abolish the whole Bill. It was a most contentious point, and he did not think it was fair to ask them to enter upon a prolonged discussion at that hour.

MR. DALZIEL hoped they would be able to make a satisfactory arrangement. He suggested that they should take the non-contentious Scotch Votes instead of proceeding with this Bill. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Amendment to the Bill were reached, they would have gone a good way towards getting the Bill.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to accept the suggestion of his hon. Friend. The Amendment which had been referred to was an extremely important one.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY said that he should prefer to take certain Scotch Votes rather than the West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, and, therefore, on the understanding that those Votes would be passed, he would consent to the Motion to report Progress. ["Hear, hear!"]

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Saturday.

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## SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS, in the Chair.]

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS II.

1. £3,573, to complete the sum for Lunacy Commission, Scotland—Agreed to.

2. £3,175, to complete the sum for Registrar General's Office, Scotland—Agreed to.

3. £7,591, to complete the sum for Local Government Board for Scotland—Agreed to.

### CLASS II.

4. £26,295, to complete the sum for Register House, Edinburgh—Agreed to.

5. £55,356, to complete the sum for Prisons, Scotland—Agreed to.

### CLASS IV.

6. £1,960, to complete the sum for National Gallery, etc., Scotland—Agreed to.

### CLASS VII.

7. £24,200, to complete the sum for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications),—

MR. McLEOD said that, according to the Estimates, there had been a considerable reduction in the amount of grants for this purpose, and there seemed to be an inclination on the part of the Treasury to dry itself up as to matters affecting both Scotland and

Ireland. He asked for an assurance from the Government that this was a temporary defect, and that there was no intention on the part of the Scottish Office to allow the Treasury to get out of the arrangement made for the purpose of bettering the condition of the Highlands of Scotland, particularly in regard to harbour accommodation.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE said that, as far as he knew, the works being carried on were of a very diverse character, and the amount to be spent year by year simply varied according to the work which had to be done. He was unaware of any policy or intention to reduce the sum which had been allocated.

Vote agreed to; reported to the House.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

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### SUPPLY [31ST JULY] REPORT.

Postponed Resolution further considered.

### CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1896–7.

### CLASS II.

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £26,700, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1897, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Civil Service Commission."

Resolution agreed to.

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### PARLIAMENTARY COSTS BILL [H.L.].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

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### TELEGRAPH MONEY BILL.

Third Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading [26th June] further adjourned till To-morrow.

*Mr. McLeod.*

### VEXATIOUS ACTIONS BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

### BURGLARY BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

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### LARCENY BILL [H.L.].

Read a Second time, and committed for To-morrow.

### EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### MILITARY LANDS ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### STANNARIES BILL [H.L.].

Committee deferred till To-morrow.

### PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

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### PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

As amended, considered; Bill read the Third time, and passed.

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### LONDON UNIVERSITY COMMISSION BILL [H.L.].

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow.

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Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 20th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at a Quarter after Two o'clock.

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# INDEX

TO

# THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

## (AUTHORISED EDITION).

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## VOLUME XLIII. FOURTH SERIES.

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### SEVENTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1896.

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### Explanation of Abbreviations.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bills Read $1^a$, $1^\circ$, $2^a$, $2^\circ$, $3^a$, $3^\circ$. | Read the First, Second, or Third Time. |
| 1R., 2R., 3R., | Speech delivered on First, Second, or Third Reading. |
| Adj. | Adjourned. |
| *A.* | Answer. |
| *c.* | Commons. |
| Com. | Committee. |
| com. | Committed. |
| Intro. | Introduction. |
| *l.* | Lords. |
| Obs. | Observations. |
| Pres. | Presented. |
| *Q.* | Question. |
| Rep. | Reported. |
| R.P. | Report Progress. |
| Reso. | Resolutions. |

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The Subjects of Debate, as far as possible, are classified under General Headings, *e.g.* :—

AFRICA
AGRICULTURE, BOARD OF
ARMY
CIVIL SERVICE
COLONIES
CUSTOMS, EXCISE, AND INLAND REVENUE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FOREIGN OFFICE
HOME DEPARTMENT
INDIA
IRELAND
LABOUR QUESTIONS
LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD
MERCHANT SHIPPING
MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS
METROPOLIS
NAVY
PARLIAMENT
POST OFFICE
RAILWAYS
SCOTLAND
SUPPLY
TRADE, BOARD OF
WALES
WAYS AND MEANS

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**Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill**
*c.* On the Order to go into Com. Instructions to Com., four in number, stood in the following names: Mr. J. Caldwell, Mr. J. M. White, Mr. Thomas Shaw, and Mr. Robinson Souttar. [Mr. Speaker ruled all the Instructions out of Order and the House proceeded to Committee] *Aug* 3, 1357
In Com., Mr. J. H. Dalziel, (*Amendt.*) 1359, 1365, 1406; Mr. Graham Murray, 1359, 1361, 1362, 1364, 1372, 1374, 1378, 1382, 1385, 1387, 1388, 1390, 1395, 1400, 1404, 1406; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1360, 1378, 1388, 1389, 1406, 1407; (*Division*, 1361); Mr. E. Robertson, 1361, (*Amendt.*) 1363, (*Amendt.*) 1374, 1376, 1387, 1393; Mr. T. Shaw, (*Amendt.*) 1361, 1391, (*Amendt.*) 1400; Sir G. O. Trevelyan, 1362, 1367, 1383, 1392, 1401; (*Division*, 1363); Mr. J. Caldwell, 1365, 1371, (*Amendt.*) 1371, 1372, 1373, (*Amendt.*) 1377, 1381, (*Amendt.*) 1381, (*Amendt.*) 1383, 1387, 1390, 1399, 1404; Sir R. T. Reid, 1366, 1372, 1380, 1394, 1395; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1367, 1381, 1382, 1391, 1407; Dr. Clark, 1369, 1372, 1375, 1381, 1382, 1394, 1395, 1405; Mr. Munro Ferguson, 1370; Mr. A. Ure, 1371, 1383; Mr. J. McLeod, 1371, 1376, 1381, 1386, 1390, 1395, (*Amendt.*) 1395, 1399, (*Amendt.*) 1403, 1406; Mr. A. Wylie, 1371, 1380, 1397; (*Divisions*, 1371, 1373); Mr. R. B. Haldane, 1375, 1402; Mr. T. R. Buchanan, 1375, 1393; Mr. R. Souttar, 1375, 1393; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1376); Mr. J. B. Balfour, 1376, 1381; [Chairman, 1378, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1397;] Sir J. Fergusson, 1380; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1381); (*Divisions*, 1382, 1387); Mr. J. W. Crombie, (*Amendt.*) 1388; Mr. J. Bryce, 1389, 1401; Mr. J. Colville, 1390; (*Division*, 1395); Mr. Hedderwick, 1396, 1406; Mr. J. M. White, 1397; (*Divisions*, 1399, 1403, 1406) *Aug* 3
In Com., Debate Resumed: Mr. Graham Murray, (*Amendt.*) 1455, 1456, 1461, 1462, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1474, 1475, 1477, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1483, 1488, 1489, 1490, (*Amendt.*)

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*Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill*—cont.

1491, 1496, 1508, 1509, 1510; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1456, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1477, 1500, 1510, 1511; Mr. J. B. Balfour, 1459, 1462, 1480, 1492; Mr. E. Robertson, 1462, 1469, 1476, 1492, 1495, 1499, 1507, 1508, (*Amendt.*) 1508; Sir R. B. Finlay, 1463, 1484, 1485; Mr. A. Asher, 1464, (*Amendt.*) 1465, 1466; Mr. T. Shaw, 1464, 1474, 1508; Dr. Clark, 1465, 1477, 1500, 1511, 1512, (*Amendt.*) 1513; Sir J. Kinloch, 1466; [Chairman, 1468, 1469, 1474, 1491, 1492, 1503, 1504, 1507;] Mr. J. Caldwell, 1468, 1485, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1513; Mr. C. B. Renshaw, 1469, 1488, 1498, 1499; Mr. A. Ure, 1470, 1490, 1507, 1508; Mr. A. Wylie, 1472, 1494, 1495; Sir G. O. Trevelyan, 1472, 1497, 1498, 1499; Mr. J. Bryce, 1473, 1482; Sir R. T. Reid, 1473, 1478, (*Amendt.*) 1483, 1484; (*Division*, 1473); Mr. D. N. Nicol, 1474, (*Amendt. as Amended Agreed to*, 1474); Mr. J. H. Dalziel, (*Amendt.*) 1475, 1476, 1478; Mr. J. Colville, 1476, 1501, 1509; Mr. J. G. Holborn, 1476; Mr. Munro Ferguson, 1476, 1485; Mr. J. M. White, 1477, 1491, 1499; Captain Pirie, 1478; (*Division*, 1478); Mr. J. McLeod, 1479, 1485, 1489, 1495; Mr. R. Souttar, 1480, 1484; Mr. T. R. Buchanan, 1480; Mr. A. Cross, 1482, 1485, 1488, 1501; Mr. Hedderwick, 1483, (*Amendt.*) 1510, 1513; Mr. J. W. Crombie, 1484, 1490; (*Division*, 1485); Sir J. Fergusson, 1486, 1504; Mr. Luttrell, 1487; Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell, 1487; Mr. H. Broadhurst, 1488; Mr. J. C. Rickett, 1495; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1500; Mr. A. Birrell, 1504; (*Division*, 1506); Mr. R. B. Haldane, 1509; Sir J. T. Brunner, 1509; (*Division*, 1510); (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1513); (*Division*, 1513) *Aug* 4

In Com., Debate Resumed: Mr. J. Caldwell, (*Amendt.*) 1518, 1525; Mr. R. Souttar, 1519; Mr. Graham Murray, 1519, 1521, 1526, 1527, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1546, 1549; Mr. T. R. Buchanan, 1519, 1531, 1547; Mr. J. Colville, 1520, 1549; Mr. J. G. Holborn, 1520; Mr. Munro Ferguson, 1520, 1539; Mr. R. B. Haldane, 1521, 1541, 1548; Mr. T. Shaw, 1522; Mr. R. Wallace, 1523; Dr. Clark, 1523, 1525, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1544; Mr. E. Robertson, 1523, 1524, 1526, 1546; Mr. J. McLeod, 1523, 1524, 1528, 1536, 1538, 1540, 1542, 1545; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1525; Mr. Hedderwick, 1525; Mr. A. Cross, 1526; (*Amendt. negatived*, 1526); Sir R. T. Reid, (*Amendt.*) 1526; Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 1527, 1534, 1536; (*Amendt. Agreed to*, 1527); Sir C. Dilke, (*Amendt.*) 1527, 1536; Mr. D. Lloyd-George, 1532; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1534, 1535, 1550; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1536); Sir G. O. Trevelyan, 1536; [Chairman, 1538, 1550;] Mr. A. Wylie, 1539; Mr. J. M. White, 1539; Mr. A. Ure, 1540, 1544; Mr. C. B. Renshaw, 1542, 1543; Mr. A. Asher, 1543, 1546; Mr. A. Birrell, 1543; Sir R. B. Finlay, 1547, 1548; Mr. J. B. Balfour, 1549; (*Division*, 1549); Captain Pirie, (*Amendt.*) 1549; Mr. J. Bryce, 1549; Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 1550; (*Division*, 1550) *Aug* 5

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*Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill*—cont.

Considered as Amended: Mr. J. Caldwell, (*Amendt.*) 1705, 1736; Mr. J. McLeod, 1709, 1718, (*Amendt.*) 1721, 1725, 1728, (*Amendt.*) 1737, 1740, 1750; Dr. Clark, 1710, 1715, 1717, 1719, 1722, 1723, 1731, 1736; [Mr. Speaker, 1710, 1723]; (*Division*, 1711); Mr. J. W. Crombie, (*Amendt.*) 1711, 1714, 1716; Mr. Graham Murray, 1712, 1717, 1719, 1722, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1731, 1732, 1736, 1741, (*Motion*) 1741; Sir G. O. Trevelyan, 1713, 1741; Mr. Munro Ferguson, 1714, 1723, 1734, 1745; Mr. J. B. Balfour, 1715, 1728, 1732, 1736; (*Division*, 1716); Mr. R. Souttar, 1717, 1720; Mr. J. M. White, 1718; Dr. Tanner, 1723; (*Divison*, 1724); Mr. Luttrell, 1724; Mr. J. H. Dalziel, (*Amendt.*) 1725; Mr. R. B. Haldane, 1729, 1744; Mr. A. Ure, 1730, 1735, (*Amendt.*) 1737; Mr. J. E. B. Baillie, 1732; Mr. J. Dillon, 1732; Mr. E. Robertson, 1733, 1748; Colonel Denny, 1733; Mr. J. G. Holborn, 1734; (*Divisions*, 1735, 1737, 1741); Mr. A. Wylie, 1745; Mr. Hedderwick, 1746; (*Division*, 1751) *Aug* 6

Read 3° and Passed *Aug* 6, 1751

(For Questions see SCOTLAND)

## AGRICULTURE, BOARD OF

President—Mr. WALTER H. LONG

*Agricultural Land Rating Bill*, *Qs.* Sir W. Harcourt, Dr. Clark; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1702

*Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill*, *Q.* Mr. J. W. Crombie; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 20, 152
(For Debate see Title of Bill)

*Cattle*
- *Foreign (Slaughter of, United States and Argentina)*, *Q.* Mr. R. Ascroft; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 24, 607
- *Live (Landing at Belfast)*, *Qs.* Sir J. Kinloch, Mr. G. W. Wolff; *As.* Mr. W. Long, Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 24, 603

*Dairy Herds (Victoria)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 23, 467

*Darwen Moor Provisional Order*, *Q.* Mr. A. Hopkinson; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 23, 471

*Dog Muzzling*, *Q.* Mr. H. C. Richards; *A.* Mr. Long *July* 23, 482

*Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act 1893 (Analyses)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Lewis; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 23, 483

*Irish Landed Estates*, *Qs.* Sir J. Colomb; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 263

*Land Law (Ireland) Bill*, *Q.* Mr. J. Morley; *A.* Mr. Speaker *July* 20, 153. *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 28, 818
(For Debate see Title of Bill)

*Parcel Post (Agricultural)*, *Q.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 30, 1049

*Pleuro-Pneumonia*, *Q.* Mr. R. Ascroft; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 24, 608

AIRD, Mr. JOHN, *Paddington, N.*

Naval Manœuvres *July* 20, 141

Smoking Accommodation (Lords and Commons) *July* 30, 1045

AKERS-DOUGLAS, RIGHT HON. A. (First Commissioner of Works, Parks, and Buildings), *Kent, St. Augustine*
- Consulate (Northern Syria) *Aug* 3, 1353
- Government Offices *July* 31, 1258
- Greenwich Park *July* 31, 1247
- Holyrood Palace *July* 17, 28
- House of Commons Lobby (Mosaics) *Aug* 3, 1353
- Hyde Park (Rotten Row) *July* 30, 1022
- Smoking Accommodation (Lords and Commons) *July* 30, 1045, 1046
- Telegraphic Communication *July* 31, 1261

ALLEN, Mr. W., *Newcastle-under-Lyme*
- Bottling Beer (Factory Regulations) *July* 28, 829

ARDILAUN, Lord
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1585

*Armenia*
- *Disturbances*
  - *Diarbekir*, *Qs.* Mr. F. S. Stevenson; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 20, 145
  - *Niksar*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Curzon *Aug* 4, 1450
- *Egin and Aintab (Affairs at)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 20, 142
- *Kharput (Massacre near)*, *Q.* Lord Stanmore; *A.* Marquess of Salisbury *July* 20, 111
- *Nazim Pasha and the Armenian Councils*, *Q.* Mr. F. S. Stevenson; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 693
- *Persecution of Armenians*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 30, 1047

**ARMY**

Secretary of State—Marquess of LANSDOWNE
Under Secretary of State—Mr. BRODRICK
Financial Secretary—Mr. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS

- *Aldershot*
  - *East and West Cavalry Barracks*, *Q.* Captain Jessel; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 27, 693
  - *Militia Encampment*, *Q.* Captain Jessel; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 27, 681
  - *Tent Floor Boards*, *Qs.* Mr. T. C. T. Warner, Captain Pirie; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *Aug* 4, 1443. *Qs.* Captain Pirie; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *Aug* 6, 1699
- *Ammunition*
  - *Lee-Metford, at Bisley*, *Qs.* Mr. J. E. B. Baillie, Major Rasch, Sir H. Fletcher, Mr. J. H. Dalziel; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *Aug* 6, 1691
  - *National Rifle Association*, *Qs.* Sir H. Vincent; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 30, 1025
- *Army Food Supplies (Ireland)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Jordan, Sir H. Vincent, Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 30, 1044
- *Artillery*
  - *Practice Ranges*, *Q.* Sir J. S. B. Simeon; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 259
  - *Range (Wicklow County)*, *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *Aug* 3, 1352

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*ARMY*—cont.
- *Barracks*
  - *Accommodation (Dingwall, Ross-shire)*, *Q.* Mr Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 27, 675
  - *Belturbet*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *Aug* 6, 1679
  - *Birr*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 30, 1032.
  - *Bradford Moor*, *Q.* Mr. H. Byron Reed; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 28, 813
  - *Cavalry (Aldershot)*, *Q.* Captain Jessel; *A* Mr. Brodrick *July* 27, 693
  - *Manchester and Salford*, *Q.* Mr. W. J. Galloway; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 21, 261. *Qs.* Mr. W. J. Galloway, Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *Aug* 6, 1679
- *Court-martial (2nd Royal Berkshire Regiment)*, *Q.* Mr. E. J. C. Morton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 20, 141. *Q.* Mr. E. J. C. Morton; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *Aug* 3, 1347
- *Curragh Camp*, *Q.* Mr. Engledow; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 20, 150
- *Dingwall (Ross-shire) Barrack Accommodation*, *Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 27, 675
- *Enlistment*, *Q.* Mr. G. Kemp; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 23, 472
- *European Troops (India)*, *Q.* Major Rasch; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 30, 1029
- *Food and Forage Supplies*, *Q.* Colonel Russell; *A.* Mr Powell-Williams *Aug* 6, 1680
- *Foreign Supplies*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 24, 600
- *Lee-Metford*
  - *Ammunition at Bisley*, *Qs.* Mr. J. E. B. Baillie, Major Rasch, Sir H. Fletcher, Mr. J. H. Dalziel; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *Aug* 6, 1691
  - *Rifle*, *Q.* Major Rasch; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 30, 1029
- *London (Defence of), Surrey Forts*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Dalziel; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 28, 813
- *Machine Guns*, *Q.* Mr. T. C. T. Warner; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *Aug* 4, 1442
- *Madras Infantry Regiments*, *Q.* Sir H. S. King; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 30, 1023
- *Manchester and Salford Military Barracks*, *Q.* Mr. W. J. Galloway; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 21, 261. *Qs.* Mr. W. J. Galloway, Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *Aug* 6, 1679
- *Medical Staff (Volunteer)*, *Q.* Dr. Farquharson; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 24, 603
- *Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill*, *Q.* Mr. J. Samuel; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 21, 274
- *Military Works Bill*, *Qs.* Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *Aug* 3, 1355
- *Military Works (Money)* (see that Title)
- *Militia Encampment (Aldershot)*, *Q.* Captain Jessel; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 27, 681
- *Mobilization Scheme (Thames and Medway Guns)*, *Q.* Mr. H. C. Richards; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 20, 142
- *National Rifle Association Ammunition*, *Qs.* Sir H. Vincent; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 30, 1025
- *Nile Expedition*, *Q.* General McCalmont; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 28, 823
- *Ordnance Factories Vote*, *Qs.* Captain Norton; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 21, 274; *July* 23, 485

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*ARMY*—cont.
*Pension*
*Bryson (Thomas)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 23, 473
*Murray (Hugh)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan: *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 24, 594
*Portsdown Hill Forts (2nd Wiltshire Regiment)*, *Q.* Mr. C. E. Colston; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 27, 693
*Rifle Range*
*Down County*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 21, 256
*Staffordshire Militia*, *Q.* Mr. T. C. T. Warner; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *Aug* 4, 1443
*Royal Berkshire Regiment (2nd) Court-martial*, *Q.* Mr. E. J. C. Morton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 20, 141. *Q.* Mr. E. J. C. Morton; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *Aug* 3, 1347
*Soudan (Cost of Military Operations)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 17, 38
*South Africa (Troops in)*, *Q.* Sir H. Havelock-Allan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 20, 148
*Staffordshire Militia (Rifle Range)*, *Q.* Mr. T. C. T. Warner; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *Aug* 4, 1443
*Supplies (Foreign)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 24, 600
*Transvaal Raid*, *Qs.* Mr. T. Bayley; *As.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 31, 1262
*Troops in South Africa*, *Q.* Sir H. Havelock-Allan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 20, 148
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*Class Firing (Compensation for Injuries)*, *Q.* Mr. G. Lambert; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 20, 121
*Corps (Financial Position)*, *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 30, 1052
*Infantry Adjutants*, *Q.* Colonel Dalbiac; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 20, 122
*Medical Staff*, *Q.* Dr. Farquharson; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 24, 603
*Yeomanry (Long Service Medal)*, *Qs.* Viscount Galway, Earl of Cork; *As.* Marquess of Lansdowne *July* 20, 113. *Q.* Viscount Valentia; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 24, 599

ARNOLD-FORSTER, Mr. H. O., *Belfast, W.*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 3R. *July* 29, 959
Rhodesia *July* 20, 145
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£41,825 for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions (Ireland) *July* 24, 665
£616,077 for National Education in Ireland *July* 17, 88; *July* 24, 626
Torpedo Boats (Volunteer Crews) *July* 20, 135

ARRAN, Earl of
Labourers (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1421, 1425
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1627, 1641
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ASCROFT, Mr. R., *Oldham*
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Extension of Railways (India) *July* 20, 146
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ASCROFT, Mr. R.—*cont.*
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Queen's Harbour Master for Hamoaze *Aug* 6, 1692
Slaughter of Foreign Cattle (United States and Argentina) *July* 24, 607

ASHBOURNE, LORD (Lord Chancellor of Ireland)
Judicial Trustees Bill, In Com. *July* 24, 588, 589, 590
Labourers (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1424
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1210, 1211, 1212; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1574, 1575, 1600, 1603, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1637, 1638
Light Railways Bill, 2R. *Aug* 4, 1434

ASHER Mr. A., *Elgin Burghs*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1464, 1465, 1466; *Aug* 5, 1543, 1546
Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *July* 30, 1140, 1141

ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, Sir E., *Sheffield, Ecclesall*
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de Wet (Sir Jacobus) *July* 28, 827
Matabeleland *July* 23, 455
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ASQUITH, Right Hon. H. H., *Fife, E.*
Supply: £78,610 for Home Office Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1278, 1280
Truck Bill *July* 27, 766, 774; *July* 30, 1082, 1084, 1087

ATHERLEY-JONES, Mr. L., *Durham, N.W.*
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 747, 762

ATKINSON, RIGHT HON. JOHN (Attorney General for Ireland), *Londonderry, N.*
Carlow County Grand Jury *July* 21, 256 *July* 23, 463
Charges
Murder (Omagh Assizes) *July* 23, 475; *July* 31, 1257
Trespass (Newbliss Petty Sessions) *Aug* 3, 1345
Compensation to Police (Ireland) *July* 20, 125
Cork County (Mill Street Union Election) *Aug* 4, 1446, 1447
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Atkinson, Right Hon. John—*cont.*
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- Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1125, 1126
- Mill Street Union Election (Cork County) *Aug* 4, 1446, 1447
- Newbliss Petty Sessions (Charge of Trespass) *Aug* 3, 1345
- Omagh Assizes (Charge of Murder) *July* 23, 475; *July* 31, 1257
- Supply: £41,825 for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions (Ireland) *July* 24, 665; *July* 30, 1137, 1139
- Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act (1854) (Newbridge) *July* 23, 470

Austin, Mr. M., *Limerick, N.*
- Mails
  - English and Irish *Aug* 3, 1344
  - Limerick *July* 31, 1264
- Supply: £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Offices of *July* 17, 80

Bailey, Mr. James, *Newington, Walworth*
- Vestry Election (St. Mary, Newington) *July* 21, 352

Baillie, Mr. J. E. B., *Inverness*
- Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill *Aug* 6, 1732
- Lee-Metford Ammunition at Bisley *Aug* 6, 1691

Bainbridge, Mr. Emerson, *Lincolnshire, Gainsborough*
- Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 765

Balcarres, Lord, *Lancashire, N., Chorley*
- Civil Service Estimates *July* 30, 1034
- Railway Accidents at Preston *Aug* 6, 1695

BALFOUR, Right Hon. ARTHUR J. (First Lord of the Treasury), *Manchester, E.*
- Agrarian and Treason-felony Prisoners (Irish) *July* 28, 832
- Agricultural Land Rating Bill *Aug* 6, 1702, 1703
- Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill *July* 20, 152; In Com. *Aug* 3, 1367, 1381, 1382, 1391, 1407; *Aug* 4, 1500; *Aug* 5, 1534, 1535, 1550
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  - Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 17, 107, 108
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  - Supply *July* 21, 292

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- Dublin Corporation Bill *July* 31, 1237, 1242; *Aug* 3, 1334, 1335, 1337; *Aug* 6, 1670
- Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, 2R. *Aug* 3, 1416
- Financial Relations Inquiry *July* 20, 153
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- Indian Budget *Aug* 6, 1701
- Jhalawar (Maharaja of) *July* 21, 292
- Judicial Trustees Bill *July* 28, 831
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 195, 197, 200, 201, 203, 237; *July* 21, 305, 307, 308, 328, 344, 345, 347, 355, 356, 361, 362; *July* 22, 373, 377, 383, 385, 393, 394; *July* 23, 489, 490, 508, 509, 520, 529, 539, 541, 544, 566, 573, 579; *July* 28, 840, 867, 881, 888, 902, 914, 936; 3R. *July* 29, 945, 949, 964, 967
- Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill *July* 21, 274; 2R. *Aug* 3, 1409
- Military Works Bill *Aug* 3, 1356
- Military Works (Money), In Com. *July* 20, 239, 240
- Ordnance Factories Vote *July* 21, 274; *July* 23, 485
- Public Business *July* 21, 274, 275, 276, 277
- Queen's Reign *Aug* 6, 1701
- Stannaries Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1412, 1413; *Aug* 4, 1515, 1516
- Supply
  - £9,600 for Commissioners in Lunacy Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1314, 1315
  - £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 29, 990
  - £2,450 for Queen's Colleges (Ireland) *July* 24, 662
- Treason-felony Prisoners *July* 24, 613; *July* 31, 1265
- Truck Bill *July* 27, 766, 777, 781
- Twelve o'Clock Rule *July* 17, 40; *July* 20, 153
- Vaccination (Royal Commission) *July* 24, 611
- West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill *July* 29, 992; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1752, 1753

BALFOUR (Right Hon. GERALD W. Chief Secretary for Ireland), *Leeds, Central*
- Advances (Land Purchase Acts) *July* 24, 595
- Amalgamation of Poor Law Unions (Ireland) Bill *Aug* 4, 1447
- Antrim County
  - Ballymena Board of Guardians *July* 23, 464
  - Carnlough Constabulary Station *July* 24 602
  - Drunkenness at Carnlough *July* 31, 1256
- Arbitration (Ireland) *July* 30, 1053
- Aremberg Chute Estate (Kerry County) *July* 21, 253, 254
- Assistant Land Commissioners (Ireland) *July* 23, 481
- Athlone Town Clerkship *July* 28, 818
- Bailieborough Union (Cavan County) *Aug* 6, 1686

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BALFOUR, Right Hon. GERALD W.—*cont.*

- Ballymena (Antrim County) Board of Guardians *July* 23, 464
- Belfast
  - Constabulary *July* 21, 254
  - Landing of Live Cattle at *July* 24, 604
  - Purdysburn Asylum *July* 23, 467; *Aug* 3, 1348
  - Workhouse Inmates
    - Death of *July* 21, 258; *July* 30, 1037
    - Removal of *July* 27, 699
- Bessbrook (Disorderly Conduct at) *July* 17, 36
- Bundoran Loan Fund *July* 31, 1256
- Carlow County
  - Grand Jury *July* 21, 255; *July* 23, 462
  - Infirmary *July* 20, 132, 133; *July* 23, 460, 461
- Castlecomer Coal Mines (Kilkenny County) *July* 21, 260
- Cavan County
  - Bailieborough Union *Aug* 6, 1686
  - Eviction Notices *Aug* 6, 1678
  - Labourers' Dwellings *July* 27, 695
  - Potato Disease *Aug* 6, 1685
- Clare County (Spancelhill Fair) *July* 17, 26
- Clones (Monaghan County), Lennard Estate *July* 30, 1048
- Commissioners' Report (National Education in Ireland) *July* 21, 261
- Compensation to Police (Ireland) *July* 20, 123, 124, 125
- Constabulary
  - Belfast *July* 21, 254
  - Regulations (Ireland) *July* 23, 474; *July* 24, 610
  - Royal Irish (see below)
  - Station (Carnlough, Antrim) *July* 24, 602
- Cookstown (Death of a Boy at) *Aug* 6, 1687
- Cork County
  - Assizes (Charge of Perjury) *July* 23, 479; *July* 31, 1254
  - Mill Street Union Election *Aug* 4, 1446
  - National School Teachers' Pension *July* 20, 150
- County Court
  - Judgeship (Down County) *July* 30, 1035
  - Sittings (Ireland) *July* 23, 463
- County Surveyorship (Ireland) *Aug* 6, 1689
- Curragh Camp *July* 17, 32
- Deaths
  - Boy at Cookstown *Aug* 6, 1687
  - Inmate (Belfast Workhouse) *July* 21, 258; *July* 30, 1037
- Destruction of National Hall (Down County) *July* 17, 36
- Disorderly Conduct at Bessbrook *July* 17, 36
- Down County
  - Court Judgeship *July* 30, 1035
  - Destruction of National Hall *July* 17, 36
  - Newcastle Harbour *July* 23, 456
  - Sale of Drink *July* 30, 1033
- Downpatrick (Poor Law Valuation) *July* 24, 597
- Drunkenness (Carnlough, Antrim County) *July* 31, 1256
- Dublin (Licence Duties) *July* 17, 29, 30
- Election of Poor Law Guardians (Ireland) *Aug* 6, 1685
- Eviction Notices (Cavan County) *Aug* 6, 1678
- Ex-officio Guardians (Ireland) *July* 20, 138

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BALFOUR, Right Hon. GERALD W.—*cont.*

- Fair Rent Applications (Ireland) *July* 17, 31, 32; *July* 24, 600; *July* 30, 1038
- Fire at National Federation Hall (Sheepbridge) *July* 20, 137
- Flax
  - Crop *Aug* 3, 1346
  - Districts, Growing of (Ulster Landlords) *July* 27, 703
- Giant's Causeway *July* 20, 140
- Government Printing Contracts *Aug* 6, 1691
- Grand Jury
  - Carlow County *July* 21, 255; *July* 23, 462
  - Monaghan County *July* 17, 27, 28
- Gransha Asylum (Londonderry) *July* 23, 459
- Guaranteed Land Stock (Land Purchase Ireland) Act, (1891) *July* 27, 686, 687
- Incautious Use of Fire-arms (Ireland) *July* 20, 150
- Industrial School (Queenstown) *July* 24, 609
- Ireland
  - Arbitration *July* 30, 1053
  - Assistant Land Commissioners *July* 23, 481
  - Compensation to Police *July* 20, 123, 124, 125
  - Constabulary Regulations *July* 23, 474; *July* 24, 610
  - County
    - Courts *July* 23, 463
    - Surveyorship *Aug* 6, 1689
  - Election of Poor Law Guardians *Aug* 6, 1685
  - Ex-officio Guardians *July* 20, 138
  - Fair Rent Applications *July* 17, 31, 32; *July* 24, 600: *July* 30, 1038
  - Incautious Use of Fire-arms *July* 20, 150
  - Judicial Rent Schedule *July* 23, 478
  - Land Judges' Court *July* 27, 683
  - Lunatic Asylums *July* 20, 126, 127
  - National Gallery *July* 31, 1251
  - National School
    - Houses *July* 27, 690
    - Teachers *July* 17, 33; *July* 20, 152; *Aug* 3, 1355
  - Rate Collection *July* 24, 599
  - Sale of Estates *Aug* 3, 1347
  - School Houses *July* 20, 151
  - Schoolmistresses *July* 28, 819
  - Town Tenants *July* 27, 697
- Irish
  - Land Commission (Land Certificate) *July* 24, 595
  - Landed Estates *July* 21, 263, 264
  - Local Taxation, etc. *Aug* 4, 1447
  - National Schools (Work Mistresses) *Aug* 6, 1679
  - School Fee Grant *July* 21, 270
  - Teachers' Pension Fund *July* 21, 262; *July* 23, 457
  - Treason-felony Prisoners *July* 27, 699
- Judicial Rent Schedule (Ireland) *July* 23, 478
- Kerry County
  - Aremberg Chute Estate *July* 21, 253, 254
  - Charge of Perjury *July* 20, 129
  - Listowel Union *July* 23, 478
- Kilkenny County (Castlecomer Coal Mines) *July* 21, 260
- Labourers'
  - Cottages (Tulla Union) *July* 28, 811
  - Dwellings (Cavan County) *July* 27, 695

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BALFOUR, Right Hon. GERALD W.—*cont.*
  Land
    Certificate (Irish Land Commission) *July* 24, 595
    Judges' Court (Ireland) *July* 27, 683
    Purchase Acts (Advances) *July* 24, 595
  Landing of Live Cattle (Belfast) *July* 24, 604
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 205, 207, 213, 214, 217, 218, 219, 225, 226, 230, 235, 237; *July* 21, 295, 296, 297, 298, 303, 308, 313, 318, 320, 324, 327, 328, 329, 337, 342, 343, 346, 348, 350, 355, 356, 357, 363; *July* 22, 368, 369, 370, 372, 384, 388, 389, 391, 398, 399, 400, 401, 412, 413, 414; *July* 23, 487, 489, 490, 491, 492, 497, 500, 501, 505, 506, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 518, 519, 535, 546, 548, 549, 550, 552, 553, 557, 558, 562, 564, 565, 566, 568, 569, 570, 571, 573; *July* 28, 818, 832, 835, 836, 838, 842, 844, 847, 848, 863, 868, 870, 872, 877, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 897, 898, 900, 905, 906, 907, 908, 910, 912, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 923, 924, 927, 928, 931, 933, 934, 935; 3R. *July* 29, 938, 974, 976
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill (Purchase Clauses) *July* 23, 470
  Lennard Estate (Clones, Monaghan County) *July* 30, 1048
  Letter-Gunnell (Longford County) School Accommodation *Aug* 3, 1354
  Licence Duties (Dublin) *July* 17, 29, 30
  Light Railways (Ireland) Bill *July* 21, 250
  Limerick County Asylum *July* 17, 27
  Listowel Union (Kerry County) *July* 23, 478
  Local Taxation (Ireland) Estate Duty Bill, *Aug* 6, 1704; 1R. *Aug* 6, 1704
  Londonderry (Gransha Asylum) *July* 23, 459
  Longford County (Letter-Gunnell) School Accommodation *Aug* 3, 1354
  Lough
    Corrib *July* 23, 454
    Foyle Fisheries *July* 30, 1032
  Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) *July* 20, 126, 127
  Mill Street Union Election (Cork County) *Aug* 4, 1446
  Monaghan County
    Grand Jury *July* 17, 27, 28
    Lennard Estate (Clones) *July* 30, 1042
    Newbliss (see below)
    Road
      Contractors *July* 28, 824
      Repair *July* 30, 1031
    Townland Improvement *July* 27, 681
  Mullingar (Stone-throwing at Passenger Trains) *Aug* 3, 1343
  Murder, Charge of (Sligo County) *July* 24, 605
  National
    Education in Ireland (Commissioners' Report) *July* 21, 261
    Gallery of Ireland *July* 31, 1251
    School
      Houses (Ireland) *July* 27, 690
      Teachers (Ireland) *July* 17, 33; *July* 20, 152; *Aug* 3, 1355
      Teachers' Pension (Cork County) *July* 20, 150
  Newbliss (Monaghan)
    Court-house (Party Demonstration) *July* 21, 268
    Petty Sessions Court *July* 27, 698

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BALFOUR, Right Hon. GERALD W.—*cont.*
  Newcastle Harbour (Down County) *July* 23, 456
  Perjury (Charges of)
    Cork Assizes *July* 23, 479; *July* 31, 1254
    Kerry County *July* 20, 129
  Poor Law Unions (Ireland) Bill (Amalgamation of) *Aug* 4, 1447
  Poor Law Valuation (Downpatrick) *July* 24, 597
  Portrane Asylum *July* 27, 685
  Potato Disease (Cavan County) *Aug* 6, 1685
  Purchase Clauses, Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 23, 470
  Purdysburn Asylum (Belfast) *July* 23, 467; *Aug* 3, 1348
  Queenstown (Industrial School) *July* 24, 609
  Railways (Ireland) Bill, 3R. *July* 27, 787
  Rate
    Collection (Ireland) *July* 24, 599
    Collector (Skibbereen Poor Law Union) *July* 27, 680
  Records (Ulster King of Arms) *July* 27, 684
  Rent Reductions (Ulster) *July* 21, 257
  Road
    Contractors (Monaghan County) *July* 28, 824
    Repair (Monaghan County) *July* 30, 1031
  Royal Irish Constabulary
    Promotion *July* 30, 1026
    Weights and Measures Act *July* 24, 610
  Sale of
    Drink (Down County) *July* 30, 1033
    Estates (Ireland) *Aug* 3, 1347
  School
    Accommodation (Letter-Gunnell, Longford County) *Aug* 3, 1354
    Houses (Ireland) *July* 20, 151
    Mistresses (Ireland) *July* 28, 819
  Sheepbridge (Fire at National Federation Hall) *July* 20, 137
  Skibbereen
    Magistracy *Aug* 6, 1684
    Poor Law Union (Rate Collector) *July* 27, 680
  Sligo County
    Charge of Murder *July* 24, 605
    Street Preaching *Aug* 6, 1690
  Spancelhill Fair (Clare County) *July* 17, 26
  Stone-throwing at Passenger Trains (Mullingar) *Aug* 3, 1343
  Supplementary Fee Grants *July* 23, 458
  Supply
    £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Offices of, *July* 17, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, 64, 65, 73, 79, 80, 81
    £616,077 for National Education in Ireland *July* 24, 623, 637, 647, 649; *July* 29, 988
    £1,643 for National Gallery of Ireland *July* 24, 649
    £2,450 for Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 24, 652
  Townland Improvement (Monaghan County) *July* 27, 681
  Town Tenants (Ireland) *July* 27, 697
  Tulla Union (Labourers' Cottages) *July* 28, 811
  Ulster
    Flax Crop *Aug* 3, 1346
    King of Arms (Records) *July* 27, 684
    Landlords (Flax-growing Districts) *July* 27, 703
    Rent Reductions *July* 21, 257

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Weights and Measures Act (Royal Irish Constabulary) *July* 24, 610
Work Mistresses (Irish National Schools) *Aug* 6, 1679

BALFOUR, Right Hon. J. B., *Clackmannan and Kinross*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1376, 1381; *Aug* 4, 1459, 1462, 1480, 1492; *Aug* 5, 1549; *Aug* 6, 1715, 1728, 1732, 1736
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 739, 748
Glasgow Meat Market *July* 31, 1245

BANBURY, Mr. F. G., *Camberwell, Peckham*
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1114

BARNES, Mr. F. G., *Kent, Faversham*
Postal Regulations (Transmission of Cheques) *July* 27, 688, 689

BARRY, Mr. A. H. SMITH (see SMITH-BARRY)

BARRY, Mr. EDWARD, *Cork County, S.*
Skibbereen Poor Law Union (Rate Collector) *July* 27, 679

BARTLEY, Mr. G. C. T., *Islington, N.*
Inland Revenue Prosecution (Highgate) *July* 27, 674

BARTON, Mr. DUNBAR P., *Armagh, Mid*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 28, 858

BAYLEY, Mr. T., *Derbyshire, Chesterfield*
Matabeleland *July* 23, 454
Transvaal Raid *July* 31, 1262, 1263
Vaccination (Royal Commission) *Aug* 6, 1677

BEACH, RIGHT HON. SIR MICHAEL E. HICKS, BART. (Chancellor of the Exchequer), *Bristol, W.*
Bishopric of Bristol Act Amendment Bill, In Com. *Aug* 1, 1328
Business of the House *July* 23, 486
Cost of Military Operations (Soudan) *July* 17, 38
Education Fee Grant (Scotland) *July* 30, 1045
Finance Bill, 3R. *July* 29, 985, 986
Game Licences (Scotland) *Aug* 6, 1701
Highgate (Inland Revenue Prosecution) *July* 27, 674
High Sheriffs *July* 31, 1258
Hired Wagons (School Treats) *Aug* 4, 1449
Index to Acts of Parliament *July* 27, 690
Inland Revenue Prosecution (Highgate) *July* 27, 674
Irish Teachers' Pension Fund *July* 23, 456
Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 28, 837
Land Tax
  Commissioners (Wales) *July* 23, 483
  Effects of Finance Bill *July* 17, 35; *July* 20, 144

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BEACH, Right Hon. Sir M. E. HICKS—*cont.*
Loans to Parish Authorities *July* 27, 675
Local Loans Stock *July* 24, 609
National Gallery of Scotland *Aug* 6, 1700
Public Works Loans Bill, In Com. *Aug* 1, 1319, 1320, 1322, 1323, 1324
Royal Commission on Financial Relations *July* 31, 1263
Savings Bank (Profit and Loss) *Aug* 3, 1351
School Treats (Hired Wagons) *Aug* 4, 1449
Scotland (Game Licences) *Aug* 6, 1701
Soudan
  Cost of Military Operations *July* 17, 38
  Expedition *July* 28, 808
Supplementary Fee Grants *July* 23, 458
Supply: £616,077 for National Education in Ireland *July* 17, 105; *July* 24, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619
Uganda Railway Bill, 2R. *July* 27, 719; In Com. *July* 30, 1094, 1096, 1098, 1103, 1104, 1108
Wales (Land Tax Commissioners) *July* 23, 483
West Highland Railway *Aug* 6, 1700

**Belfast Corporation Bill**
*l.* Rep. from Select Com. with Amendts *July* 23, 417
Read 3ª with Amendts.; Passed, and Returned to Commons *July* 31, 1145

**Belfast Street Tramways Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

BELMORE, Earl of
Drogheda Corporation Bill *Aug* 4, 1418
Government of Norfolk Island *July* 30, 1019, 1020
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1219; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1643
Metropolitan Railway Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 997

BELPER, LORD (Captain of the Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms)
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1013
Infant Life Protection Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 427

BEMROSE, Mr. H. H., *Derby*
County Court Fees *Aug* 6, 1694
Twelve o'Clock Rule *July* 20, 153

**Berriew School Bill**
*c.* 2R. Viscount Cranborne, 243; [Mr. Speaker, 243;] Mr. A. J. Balfour, 243 *July* 20
Withdrawn *July* 20, 243

BETHELL, Captain G. R., *Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness*
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1110, 1113, 1118, 1119, 1121, 1124; In Com., 1128

BHOWNAGGREE, Mr. M. M., *Bethnal Green, N.E.*
  Boyce (Dr.), The late *Aug* 6, 1693
  Maharaja of Jhalawar *July* 21, 285
  Regent's Canal *July* 21, 255

BIRRELL, Mr. AUGUSTINE, *Fife, W.*
  Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1504; *Aug* 5, 1543

**Bishopric of Bristol Act (Amendment) Bill**
c. Read 2° and com. *July* 27, 783
  In Com., R.P. *July* 29, 991
  In Com., Mr. J. C. Williams, 1327, 1328; [Chairman, 1328;] Mr. Ellis Griffith, 1328; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 1328 *Aug* 1
  Rep. without Amendt. *Aug* 1, 1328
  Read 3° and Passed without Amendt. *Aug* 1, 1328
l. Returned from Commons Agreed to *Aug* 4, 1418

**Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramroads Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Blackpool Improvement Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Blackpool, St. Anne's, and Lytham Tramways Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Blackrock and Kingstown Drainage Bill**
l. Read 2ª and com.; Com. to be Proposed by Com. of Selection *July* 17, 6

BOUSFIELD, Mr. W. R., *Hackney N.*
  East London Water Company *July* 23, 484; *July* 30, 1023
  Truck Bill *July* 30, 1086, 1091

BOWLES, Mr. T. GIBSON, *Lynn Regis*
  British
    South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1067
    Trade Abroad (Commercial Attachés) *July* 27, 677
  Business
    Government *July* 20, 187, 188
    House, of the *July* 23, 486
  Cretan Distress Fund *July* 17, 38
  Crete *July* 20, 136
  Finance Bill, 3R. *July* 29, 980
  Hyde Park (Rotten Row) *July* 30, 1022
  Rule of the Road at Sea *July* 30, 1039, 1040
  Smoking Accommodation (Lords and Commons) *July* 30, 1046
  Supply
    £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1290
    £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1306
  Uganda Railway Bill, 2R. *July* 27, 723; In Com. *July* 30, 1098, 1103, 1106, 1107, 1108
  Weights and Measures *July* 30, 1056

**Boyne Navigation Transfer Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

BRAYE, Lord
  Queen's Reign *July* 27, 669

BRIGG, Mr. JOHN, *Yorks, W.R., Keighley*
  Index to Acts of Parliament *July* 27, 689
  Truck Bill *July* 30, 1092, 1093

**Brighton Corporation (Water) Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

*British South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee)*
  Mr. J. Chamberlain, (*Motion*) 1057, 1061, 1067, 1071, 1075; Mr. H. Labouchere, 1060, 1061, 1065; Sir W. Harcourt, (*Amendt.*) 1061, 1067, (*Amendt.*) 1067; Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, 1065; Sir R. Webster, 1066; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1067); (*Amendt. Agreed to*, 1067); Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 1067; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 1067; Sir R. T. Reid, 1068; Mr. J. M. Maclean, 1069; Mr. J. C. Flynn, 1071; Mr. Bryn Roberts, 1071; Sir A. K. Rollit, 1072; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1072; Sir H. Havelock-Allan, 1074, 1075; [Mr. Speaker, 1075;] Mr. J. Dillon, 1075; (*Motion as Amended Agreed to*, 1075) *July* 30

*British South Africa Company* (see COLONIES)

BROADHURST, Mr. HENRY, *Leicester*
  Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1488
  Supply: £616,077 for National Education in Ireland *July* 24, 640

BRODRICK, HON. W. ST. JOHN (Under Secretary of State for War), *Surrey, Guildford*
  Adjutants (Volunteer Infantry) *July* 20, 122
  Aldershot
    East and West Cavalry Barracks *July* 27, 693
    Militia Encampment *July* 27, 681
    Tent Floor Boards *Aug* 4, 1443; *Aug* 6, 1699
  Ammunition (National Rifle Association) *July* 30, 1026
  Barracks
    Accommodation (Dingwall) *July* 27, 676
    Aldershot (East and West Cavalry) *July* 27, 693
    Birr Military *July* 30, 1033
    Bradford Moor *July* 28, 813
    Manchester and Salford *July* 21, 261; *Aug* 6, 1679, 1680
  Bisley (Lee-Metford Ammunition at) *Aug* 6, 1692
  Bradford Moor Barracks *July* 28, 813
  Compensation for Injuries (Volunteer Class Firing) *July* 20, 121

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BRODRICK, Hon. W. ST. JOHN—*cont.*
- Court-martial (2nd Royal Berkshire Regiment) *July* 20, 142
- Curragh Camp *July* 20, 151
- Defence of London (Surrey Forts) *July* 28, 813
- Dingwall (Barrack Accommodation) *July* 27, 676
- Down County Rifle Range *July* 21, 256
- Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 6, 1651, 1652
- Financial Position (Volunteer Corps) *July* 30, 1053
- Lee-Metford Ammunition at Bisley *Aug* 6, 1692
- Machine Guns *Aug* 4, 1442
- Manchester and Salford (Military Barracks) *July* 21, 261; *Aug* 6, 1679, 1680
- Military Barracks
  - Birr *July* 30, 1033
  - Manchester and Salford *July* 21, 261; *Aug* 6, 1679, 1680
- Military Works (Money), In Com. *July* 20, 238
- Militia Encampment (Aldershot) *July* 27, 681
- Mobilisation Scheme (Thames and Medway Guns) *July* 20, 142
- National Rifle Association (Ammunition) *July* 30, 1026
- Nile Expedition *July* 28, 823
- Portsdown Hill Forts (2nd Wiltshire Regiment) *July* 27, 693
- Rifle Range
  - Down County *July* 21, 256
  - Staffordshire Militia *Aug* 4, 1444
  - Wiltshire (2nd) Regiment (Portsdown Hill Forts) *July* 27, 693
- Staffordshire Militia (Rifle Range) *Aug* 4, 1444
- Surrey Forts (Defence of London) *July* 28, 813
- Tent Floor Boards (Aldershot) *Aug* 4, 1443; *Aug* 6, 1699
- Thames and Medway Guns (Mobilisation Scheme) *July* 20, 142
- Transvaal Raid *July* 31, 1263
- Volunteer
  - Class Firing (Compensation for Injuries) *July* 20, 121
  - Corps (Financial Position) *July* 30, 1053
  - Infantry (Adjutants) *July* 20, 122

BRUNNER, Sir JOHN T., Bart., *Cheshire, Northwich*
- Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1509
- Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 766
- Northwich Railway Station *Aug* 4, 1445

BRYCE, Right Hon. J., *Aberdeen, S.*
- Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1389, 1401; *Aug* 4, 1473, 1482; *Aug* 5, 1549
- Business of the House (Saturday Sitting) *July* 31, 1267
- Conciliation (Trade Disputes Bill) *July* 27, 726, 728
- Consulate (Northern Syria) *Aug* 3, 1353
- Cretan Affairs *Aug* 4, 1451
- Supply: £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1300, 1302, 1307

BUCHANAN, Mr. T. R., *Aberdeen, E.*
- Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1375, 1393; *Aug* 4, 1480; *Aug* 5, 1519, 1531, 1547
- Fisheries Acts Amendment Bill *July* 21, 265, 266
- Government Business *July* 20, 177
- National Gallery of Scotland *Aug* 6, 1700
- North Sea Fisheries *Aug* 6, 1698
- West Highland Railway *Aug* 6, 1699

BURDETT-COUTTS, Mr. W. L. A. B., *Westminster*
- Uganda Railway Bill, 2R. *July* 27, 707, 720, 722

**Burials Bill**
- *c.* Withdrawn *July* 28, 805

BURNS, Mr. JOHN, *Battersea*
- Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 763
- Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 733
- Supply
  - £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1275
  - £376,571 for Stationery and Printing *Aug* 5, 1553
- Truck Bill *July* 27, 778; *July* 30, 1088, 1090

**Burntisland Harbour Bill**
- Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

BURT, Mr. THOMAS, *Morpeth*
- Savings Bank (Profit and Loss) *Aug* 3, 1350

**Burton-upon-Trent Corporation Bill**
- Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Cabs (London) Bill**
- *l.* Returned from Commons with Amendts. Agreed to *July* 24, 591

CALDWELL, Mr. J., *Lanarkshire, Mid*
- Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1357, 1365, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1377, 1381, 1383, 1387, 1390, 1399, 1404; *Aug* 4, 1468, 1485, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1513; *Aug* 5, 1518, 1525; *Aug* 6, 1705, 1736
- Education Fee Grant (Scotland) *July* 28, 822
- Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 27, 786; In Com. *July* 30, 1139, 1140; *Aug* 1, 1326
- Land Tax *July* 17, 35; *July* 20, 144
- Light Railways Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 1132
- Supplementary Fee Grant (Scotland) *July* 27, 697
- Supply: £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 24, 634
- Uganda Railway Bill, In Com. *July* 30, 1105

*Caledonian Canal*
- Paper Pres. (*c.*) *July* 27, 673

**Caledonian Railway Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

Campbell-Bannerman, Right Hon. Sir H., *Stirling Burghs*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1360, 1378, 1388, 1389, 1406, 1407; *Aug* 4, 1456, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1477, 1500, 1510, 1511; *Aug* 5, 1525

Canterbury, Lord Archbishop of
London University Commission Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 1008

Carew, Mr. J. L., *Dublin, College Green*
Customs Offices (Dublin) *July* 28, 829
London and Dublin Night Mail Service *July* 31, 1259
Spancelhill Fair (Clare County) *July* 17, 25

Carlile, Mr. W. W., *Bucks, N.*
Assize Arrangements *July* 21, 273

Carson, Mr. E. H., *Dublin University*
Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 6, 1670, 1671, 1675
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 197, 206, 209, 212, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 224, 225, 226, 227, 234, 235; *July* 21, 293, 295, 297, 300, 301, 304, 308, 309, 311, 316, 317; *July* 23, 494, 497, 508, 511, 513, 540, 541, 550, 552; *July* 28, 838, 843
Supply: £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 17, 103

Castletown, Lord
Labourers (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1012
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1187, 1188; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1580, 1621, 1624, 1625, 1626

Cavendish, Mr. Victor, *Derbyshire, W.*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 28, 922

Cayzer, Mr. C. W., *Barrow-in-Furness*
Foreign Vessels in British Ports *July* 21, 250
Supply: £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1309

Cecil, Lord Hugh, *Greenwich*
Greenwich Park *July* 31, 1246

**Cemeteries Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *July* 23, 454

**Chairmen of District Councils Bill**
*l.* Read 3ª; Amendt. made; Passed, and Returned to Commons *July* 20, 119
*c.* Lords' Amendts. Considered and Agreed to *July* 23, 452

CHAMBERLAIN, Right Hon JOSEPH (Secretary of State fo the Colonies), *Birmingham, W.*
Arms and Ammunition (Matabeleland *July* 30, 1034
British
Bechuanaland *July* 28, 826
South Africa
Appointment of Select Committee *July* 30 1057, 1061, 1067, 1071, 1075
Company *July* 20, 139; *July* 21, 263
Constabulary (Rhodesia) *Aug* 3, 1349
de Wet (Sir Jacobus) *July* 28, 827
Emigrants' Information Office *July* 27, 682
Food Supplies (Rhodesia) *July* 30, 1051; *July* 31, 1262
Gold Coast
Land Commission *July* 28, 819
Native and European Doctors *July* 27, 695
Judicial Committee (Colonial Judge) *July* 27, 696
Landing of Live Cattle at Belfast *July* 24, 605
Matabeleland
Arms and Ammunition *July* 30, 1034
Food Supplies *July* 21, 266
Surrender of Natives *July* 23, 454, 455
Mining Royalty (Straits Settlements) *July* 30, 1052
Pretoria, (Prisoners at) *Aug* 4, 1448, 1449
Rhodesia
Constabulary *Aug* 3, 1349
Food Supplies *July* 30, 1051; *July* 31, 1262
Imperial Rule *July* 20, 146
Rebellion *Aug* 4, 1450
Rising *July* 27, 704; *July* 28, 828
Straits Settlements (Mining Royalty) *July* 30, 1052
Supply: £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 17, 94
Troops in South Africa *July* 20, 148
Venezuela *July* 27, 687
Zululand (Mission Schools) *July* 31, 1264

**Chamber's Estate Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

Channing, Mr. F. A., *Northampton, E.*
Light Railways Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 1129, 1131
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1115
Peap's Charity (Northamptonshire) *July* 31, 1247
Public Business *July* 21, 277
Supply: £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1309, 1313

CHAPLIN, Right Hon. HENRY (President of the Local Government Board), *Lincolnshire, Sleaford*
Diphtheria (Anti-toxic Serums) *July* 30, 1041
Dulwich College Toll Gate *July* 28, 808
East London Water
Company *July* 21, 262; *July* 23, 484; *July* 27, 702; *July* 30, 1024, 1025
Supply *July* 31, 1268
East Preston Guardians, Sussex (Voluntary Church Rate) *July* 20, 134
Essendon Water Supply (Herts) *July* 23, 481
Hanwell Schools *July* 31, 1249

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CHAPLIN, Right Hon. HENRY—*cont.*
  Incidences of Local Taxation Inquiry
    Appointment of Commission *July* 30, 1056
    Terms of Reference *July* 28, 830
  Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1109, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1117, 1118, 1120, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, In Com. 1127, 1128, 1129; 3R. *Aug* 1, 1318
  Locomotives on Highways (Excise Duty), In Com. *July* 27, 784, 785
  London (Water Supply) *July* 28, 820
  Vestry Election (St. Mary, Newington) *July* 21, 252
  Voluntary Church Rate (East Preston Guardians, Sussex) *July* 20, 134
  Water Supply
    East London *July* 28, 820; *July* 31, 1268
    Essendon (Herts) *July* 23, 481

*Charitable Endowments (London)*
  Return Pres. (*c.*) *July* 21, 246

**CHARITY COMMISSION**

  Parliamentary Charity Commissioner—Mr. J. GRANT LAWSON.

  *Christ's Hospital*, *Qs.* Captain Norton, Mr. J. H. Johnstone; *As.* Mr. Grant Lawson *July* 28, 815
  *Covent Garden Theatrical Fund*, *Qs.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *As.* Mr. Grant Lawson *July* 21, 259; *July* 27, 695
  *Donington Education Scheme*, *Q.* Mr. H. F. Pollock; *A.* Mr. Grant Lawson *July* 17, 39
  *Peap's Charity (Northamptonshire)*, *Q.* Mr. F. A. Channing; *A.* Mr. Grant Lawson *July* 31, 1247
  *St. Cross Hospital (Winchester)*, *Q.* Mr. W. H. Myers; *A.* Mr. Grant Lawson *July* 31, 1255

CHURCHILL, Lord
  Naval Reserve Bill, 2R. *Aug* 4, 1438

**City and South London Railway Bill**
*l.* 3R. Lord Dorchester, 1557; Earl of Meath, 1557; Earl of Morley, 1559, 1561; Lord Halsbury, 1559 *Aug* 6
  Read 3ª with Amendts; Further Amendts. made; Further Amendt. moved and negatived; Passed, and Returned to Commons *Aug* 6, 1561

**CIVIL SERVICE**

  *Estimates*, *Q.* Lord Balcarres; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 30, 1034

*Civil Service Certificates*
  Return Pres. (*c.*) *July* 30, 1021

CLANCY, Mr. J. J., *Dublin County, N.*
  Constabulary Regulations (Ireland) *July* 23, 474; *July* 24. 610
  Dublin Corporation Bill *July* 31, 1240, 1242, 1243; *Aug* 3, 1340; *Aug* 6, 1653, 1654
  Irish
    School Fee Grant *July* 21, 270
    Teachers' Pension Fund *July* 21, 262; *July* 23, 457

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CLANCY, Mr. J. J.—*cont.*
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 212, 219; *July* 21, 301, 359; *July* 23, 520, 566, 579; *July* 28, 843, 844
  Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) *July* 20, 126
  Maharaja of Jhalawar *July* 21, 277, 291
  Supply
    £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 75
    £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 17, 89, 90, 92, 97; *July* 24, 619
    £75,656 for Supreme Court of Judicature and Other Legal Departments in Ireland *July* 24, 665

CLARINA, Lord
  Labourers (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1423

CLARK, Dr. G. B., *Caithness*
  Agricultural Land Rating Bill *Aug* 6, 1702
  Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1369, 1372, 1375, 1381, 1382, 1394, 1395, 1405; *Aug* 4, 1465, 1477, 1500, 1511, 1512, 1513; *Aug* 5, 1523, 1525, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1544; *Aug* 6, 1710, 1715, 1717, 1719, 1722, 1723, 1731, 1736
  Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 27, 787
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 361, 362; *July* 22, 370
  Light Railways Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 1132
  Maharaja of Jhalawar *July* 21, 291
  Maybrick (Mrs.) *July* 31, 1265
  Public Health (Ireland) Bill *Aug* 3, 1416
  Uganda Railway Bill, In Com. *July* 30, 1099
  West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1753

CLIFDEN, Viscount
  Pollution of Rivers *July* 24, 585
  Rents in Ireland *July* 17, 17

CLONBROCK, Lord
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1228; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1607

CLONCURRY, Lord
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1604

**Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill**
*c.* Considered as Amended: Mr. D. A. Thomas, 734, 743; Sir Matthew White Ridley, 734, 737, 738, 742, 749, 752, 753, 754, 755, 766; Mr. J. Wilson (Durham), 734, 745, 751, 754; Mr. W. Abraham (Rhondda), (*Amendt.*) 735, 736, 745, 747, 752; [Mr. Speaker, 736;] Sir G. O. Morgan, 737, 748, 750; Mr. Abel Thomas, 737, 738, 742, 748, 749, 753; Sir W. Harcourt, 738, 745, 757; Sir R. Webster, 738, (*Amendt.*) 744, 746, 748, 750, 752; Mr. J. Wilson (Govan), 739; Mr. J. B. Balfour, 739, 748; Mr. S. T. Evans, 739, 744, 747, 748, 754; Mr. Tomlinson, 740, 754, 763; Mr. R. McKenna, 740, 746, (*Amendt.*) 755; Mr. Bryn Roberts, 741;

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*Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill*—cont.
Mr. Wootton Isaacson, 741, 746; Mr. J. H. Lewis, 741, 744, 748, 750; Mr. B. Pickard, 742, 748, 765; Mr. W. P. Morgan, 742, (*Amendt.*) 746, 754; Major Wyndham-Quin, 743; (*Division*, 744); Mr. J. C. Williams, 745; Mr. J. Wilson (Falkirk), 745, 753; (*Amendt. Agreed to*, 746); Mr. Atherley-Jones, 747, 762; (*Division*, 748); Mr. Stuart-Wortley, 751, 761; Mr. C. Fenwick, 754; Colonel Blundell, 760; Sir C. Dilke, 760 Mr. J. Burns, 763; Mr. E. Bainbridge, 765; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 766); Sir J. T. Brunner, 766 *July* 27
Read 3° and Passed *July* 27, 766
*l.* Read 1ª *July* 28, 804
2R. Lord Belper *July* 30, 1013
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 30, 1014
In Com., Rep. without Amendt. and re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 31, 1232
Rep. from Standing Com. with Amendts. *Aug* 4, 1418
Amendts. Rep. *Aug* 6, 1650
(For Questions see HOME DEPARTMENT)

COHEN, Mr. B. L., *Islington, E.*
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1114

**Collecting Societies Bill**
*c.* In Com. Rep. without Amendt. *July* 23, 579
Read 3º and Passed *July* 23, 579
*l.* Read 1ª *July* 24, 591
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 27, 673
In Com., Rep. without Amendt.; Standing Com. negatived *July* 28, 804
Read 3ª and Passed *July* 30, 1014

COLOMB, Sir JOHN, *Great Yarmouth*
Irish Landed Estates *July* 21, 263, 264
Judicial Rent Schedule (Ireland) *July* 23, 478
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 202, 215, 222, 223; *July* 21, 316, 318, 323, 327, 356, 357; *July* 22, 383, 387, 389, 391, 401, 410, 412, 414; *July* 23, 491, 497, 509, 510, 556; *July* 28, 840, 855, 869, 872, 890, 892, 896, 903, 909, 925, 930; 3R. *July* 29, 954

**COLONIES**
Secretary of State—Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN
Under Secretary of State—Earl of SELBORNE
*British*
*Bechuanaland*, *Q.* Mr. Griffith-Boscawen; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 28, 825
*South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee)* (see that Title)
*South Africa Company*, *Q.* Mr. Bryn Roberts; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 20, 139. *Q.* Mr. Swift MacNeill; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 21, 263
*Cattle, Live (Landing at Belfast)*, *Qs.* Sir J. Kinloch, Mr. G. W. Wolff; *As.* Mr. W. Long, Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 24, 603

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*COLONIES*—cont.
*Colonial Vote*, *Qs.* Mr. H. Byron Reed, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 27, 704. *Qs.* Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *Aug* 4, 1452
*Dairy Herds (Victoria)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 23, 467
*de Wet (Sir Jacobus)*, *Qs.* Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 28, 827
*Emigrants' Information Office*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Rankin, Mr. J. F. Hogan; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 27, 682
*Gold Coast*
*Land Commission*, *Q.* Mr. D. F. Goddard *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 28, 819
*Native and European Doctors*, *Q.* Dr. Farquharson; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain July 27 694
*Judicial Committee (Colonial Judge)*, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 27, 696
*Matabeleland*
*Arms and Ammunition*, *Qs.* Mr. H. V. Duncombe, Mr. H. C. Stephens; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 30, 1033
*Food Supplies*, *Qs.* Mr. Luttrell, Mr. C. P. Scott; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 21, 266
*Surrender of Rebels*, *Qs.* Mr. T. Bayley, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Luttrell; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 23, 454
*Mission Schools (Zululand)*, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 31, 1264
*Norfolk Island* (see NORFOLK ISLAND)
*Pretoria (Prisoners at)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. M. Maclean, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *Aug* 4, 1447
*Rhodesia*
*Constabulary*, *Qs.* Mr. Wootton Isaacson; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *Aug* 3, 1348
*Food Supplies*, *Q.* Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 30, 1050. *Q.* Sir H. Havelock-Allan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 31, 1262
*Imperial Rule*, *Qs.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 20, 145
*Rebellion*, *Q.* Mr. J. M. Maclean; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *Aug* 4, 1449
*Rising*, *Qs.* Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Radcliffe Cooke; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 27, 704. *Q.* Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 28, 827
*Straits Settlements (Mining Royalty)*, *Q.* Mr. A. Strauss; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 30, 1052
*Troops in South Africa*, *Q.* Sir H. Havelock-Allan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 20, 148
*Uganda Railway Bill* (see that Title)
*Victoria (Dairy Herds)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 23, 467
*Zululand (Mission Schools)*, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 31, 1264

COLSTON, Mr. C. E. H. A., *Gloucester, Thornbury*
Portsdown Hill Forts (2nd Wiltshire Regiment) *July* 27, 693

Colville, Mr. J., *Lanark, N.E.*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1390; *Aug* 4, 1476, 1501, 1509; *Aug* 5, 1520, 1549
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 729

**Commons Regulation (Darwen) Provisional Order Bill**
*l.* Viscount Cross, (*Motion*) *July* 27, 669
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 27, 669

**Companies Bill**
*l.* Rep. from Select Com. with Minutes of Proceedings; Minutes of Evidence laid on the Table, and to be delivered out *July* 17, 7

**Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill**
*c.* Considered as Amended; Debate Resumed: Mr. R. Ascroft, 724, 725, 726, (*Amendt.*) 727, 733; Sir C. Dilke, 725, 729, 733; Mr. Ritchie, 725, 726, 727, 732, 733; Mr. J. Bryce, 726, 728; Mr. J. Wilson (Durham), 727; Mr. G. Whiteley, 728; Mr. C. Fenwick, 728; Mr. Wootton Isaacson, 728; [Mr. Speaker, 728;] Mr. G. W. Wolff, 729; Mr. A. J. Mundella, 729; Sir J. Lubbock, 729; Mr. J. W. Logan, 729; Mr. J. Colville, 729; Mr. J. F. Flannery, 729; Sir R. Webster, 730; (*Division*, 731); Sir A. K. Rollit, 731; Mr. J. Burns, 733 *July* 27
Read 3° and Passed *July* 27, 733
*l.* Read 1ª *July* 28, 805
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 31, 1233
In Com., Earl of Dudley *Aug* 4, 1427
Rep. without Amendt.; Standing Com. negatived *Aug* 4, 1429
Read 3ª and Passed *Aug* 6, 1561

Condon, Mr. T. J., *Tipperary, E.*
English and Irish Mails *Aug* 3, 1344
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 534

Connemara, Lord
Metropolitan Railway Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 999

*Contracts*
*Government Printing (Ireland), Qs.* Mr. M. Davitt, Mr. W. J. Corbet; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1690
*Irish Mails, Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 149

**Conveyancing and Law of Property Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *Aug* 3, 1356

Cooke, Mr. C. W. Radcliffe, *Hereford*
Assize Arrangements *July* 21, 273
Rhodesia Rising *July* 27, 704

Corbet, Mr. W. J., *Wicklow, E.*
Government Printing Contracts (Ireland) *Aug* 6, 1691

Cork and Orrery, Earl of
Yeomanry (Long Service Medal) *July* 20, 116

Courtown, Earl of
Labourers (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1011

Cowper, Earl
London University Commission Bill, 2R. *July* 23, 438

Cox, Mr. R., *Edinburgh, S.*
Exchequer Court *July* 20, 121

Cranborne, Viscount, *Rochester*
Berriew School Bill, 2R. *July* 20, 243

Crean, Mr. E., *Queen's County, Ossory*
Cork Assizes (Charge of Perjury) *July* 23, 479

Crewe, Earl of
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1174

Crombie, Mr. J. W., *Kincardineshire*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill *July* 20, 152; In Com. *Aug* 3, 1388; *Aug* 4, 1484, 1490; *Aug* 6, 1711, 1714, 1716
Herrings at St. Petersburg *July* 20, 134
Kirk Session of Laurencekirk *Aug* 3, 1342
Truck Bill *July* 30, 1092

Cross, Mr. A., *Glasgow, Camlachie*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1482, 1485, 1488, 1501; *Aug* 5, 1526

CROSS, Viscount (Lord Privy Seal)
Commons Regulation (Darwen) Provisional Order Bill, 2R. *July* 27, 669
Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill, 2R. *July* 28, 802

**Culter Water Order Confirmation Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

Curran, Mr. T. B., *Donegal, N.*
Castlecomer Post Office *July* 28, 809
Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 3, 1329
Lough Foyle Fisheries *July* 30, 1031

CURZON, Right Hon. GEORGE N. (Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), *Lancashire, S.W., Southport*
Abdullah Pasha
Cretan Assembly, and *July* 27, 700
Crete, in *July* 28, 821
Affairs at Egin and Aintab *July* 20, 143
Armenian Councils and Nazim Pasha *July* 27, 694
Armenians (Persecution of) *July* 30, 1047
Boyce (Dr.), The late *Aug* 6, 1693

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CURZON, Right Hon. GEORGE N.—*cont.*

- British
  - Seamen (Arrest of) *July* 17, 30
  - Trade Abroad (Commercial Attachés) *July* 27, 676, 677
- Calcutta (Overland Railway to) *July* 21, 247
- Canea (Cretan Convention at) *July* 31, 1257
- Cotton, Woollen, and Iron Trades (Statistics of) *July* 30, 1041
- Cretan
  - Affairs *Aug* 4, 1452
  - Assembly (Opening of) *July* 27, 700, 701; *July* 28, 821; *July* 31, 1257; *Aug* 4, 1445
  - Distress Fund *July* 17, 37, 38
- Crete
  - Abdullah Pasha in *July* 28, 821
  - Action of Great Powers *July* 20, 136, 137
  - Fighting in *July* 27, 701
  - Military Governor of *Aug* 4, 1445
- Disturbances
  - Diarbekir *July* 20, 145
  - Niksar *Aug* 4, 1451
- Egin and Aintab (Affairs at) *July* 20, 143
- Fighting in Crete *July* 27, 701
- Franco-Congolese Agreement *July* 30, 1022
- Herrings at St. Petersburg *July* 20, 135
- Khamis (Pastor) *July* 27, 703
- Lothaire (Major) *July* 23, 480
- Madagascar *July* 27, 691
- Military Governor of Crete *Aug* 4, 1445
- Mombasa-Uganda Railway *July* 23, 468, 469
- Morocco (Slave Trade in) *Aug* 6, 1698
- Niger
  - Coast Protectorate *July* 30, 1030
  - Company *July* 27, 678
- Niksar (Disturbances at) *Aug* 4, 1451
- Overland Railway to Calcutta *July* 21, 247
- Persecution of Armenians *July* 30, 1047
- St. Petersburg (Herrings at) *July* 20, 135
- Samoa *July* 27, 691
- Seamen, British (Arrest of) *July* 17, 30
- Slavery at Zanzibar *Aug* 6, 1697, 1698
- Slave Trade in Morocco *Aug* 6, 1698
- Statistics of Cotton, Woollen, and Iron Trades *July* 30, 1041
- Uganda Railway Bill 2R. *July* 27, 709, 710, 711, 716; In Com. *July* 30, 1100, 1101
- Venezuela *July* 27, 687
- Wadelai *July* 23, 471
- Zanzibar (Slavery at) *Aug* 6, 1697, 1698

**CUSTOMS, EXCISE, AND INLAND REVENUE**

- *Customs*
  - *Employés*, *Qs.* Captain Norton, Mr. L. P. Hayden; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 21, 269
  - *Offices (Dublin)*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 33. *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 829
  - *Outdoor Officers*, *Q.* Mr. L. P. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 3, 1354
  - *Statistical Office*, *Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 810
- *Dublin (Customs Offices)*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Mr Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 33. *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 829
- *Dunbar, Renewal of Licence*, *Q.* Mr. J. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 27, 684

[*cont.*

*CUSTOMS, EXCISE, AND INLAND REVENUE*—cont.

- *Excursion Steamers*
  - *Bristol Channel*, *Q.* Sir Cameron Gull; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 685
  - *Drunkenness*, *Qs.* Sir Cameron Gull, Sir W. Lawson; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *Aug* 3, 1355
- *Game Licences (Scotland)*, *Q.* Mr. R. Pierpoint; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *Aug* 6, 1701
- *Income Tax*
  - *Assessment (Dundalk)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 4, 1440; *Aug* 6, 1698
  - *Commissioners of*, *Qs.* Mr. J. H. Lewis; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1260
- *Inland Revenue Prosecution (Highgate)*, *Q.* Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 27, 674
- *Land Tax*
  - *Commissioners' Names Bill*, *Q.* Mr. F. S. Stevenson; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 692
  - *Commissioners (Wales)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Lewis; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 23, 483
  - *Operation of Finance Bill*, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 17, 35. *Qs.* Mr. E. Robertson, Mr. J. Caldwell; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach, Mr. Graham Murray *July* 20, 144
- *Licence*
  - *Duties (Dublin)*, *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 29
  - *Renewal of (Dunbar)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 27, 684
- *Local Taxation (Ireland)*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 4, 1447
- *Sale of Drink (Down County)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Johnston; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1033
- *Savings Bank (Profit and Loss)*, *Q.* Mr. T. Burt; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *Aug* 3, 1350
- *School Treats (Hired Wagons)*, *Q.* Mr. F. B. Mildmay; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *Aug* 4, 1449
- *Statistical Office (Customs)*, *Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 810
- *Taxation Inquiry (Incidence of)*, *Q.* Mr. C. Harrison; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 28, 830. *Q.* Mr. W. Thorburn; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 30, 1056

DALBIAC, Colonel P. H., *Camberwell, N.*

- Adjutants (Volunteer Infantry) *July* 20, 122

**Dalmeny and Kirkliston Water Provisional Order Bill**

- Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

DALY, Mr. J., *Monaghan, S.*

- Drumbrackin Post Office (Carrickmacross) *July* 31, 1258
- Election of Poor Law Guardians (Ireland) *Aug* 6, 1685
- Grand Jury (Monaghan) *July* 17, 27, 28
- Income Tax Assessment (Dundalk) *Aug* 4, 1440; *Aug* 6, 1698
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 529, 546; *July* 28, 860
- Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1125

[*cont.*

DALY, Mr. J.—*cont.*
Locomotives on Highways (Excise Duty), In Com. *July* 27, 785
Road Contractors (Monaghan) *July* 28, 824
Supply
£26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 66, 67, 79
£78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1294
£616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 24, 624 ; *July* 29, 987
£127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1311
Townland Improvement (Monaghan) *July* 27, 681
Ulster Flax Crop *Aug* 3, 1346

DALZIEL, Mr. J. H., *Kirkcaldy Burghs*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1359, 1365, 1406 ; *Aug* 4, 1475, 1476, 1478 ; *Aug* 5, 1527, 1534, 1536 ; *Aug* 6, 1725
British South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1067
Business of the House *Aug* 6, 1703
Defence of London (Surrey Forts) *July* 28, 813
Government Business *July* 20, 181
Lee-Metford Ammunition at Bisley *Aug* 6, 1692
Locomotives on Highways (Re-committed) Bill, 3R. *Aug* 1, 1318
Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill, 2R. *Aug* 3, 1408, 1410
Slavery at Zanzibar *Aug* 6, 1698
Stannaries Bill, In Com., *Aug* 3, 1412
Supply
£9,600 for Commissioners in Lunacy Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1314, 1315
£78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1288
£127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1295, 1299, 1300
West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1752, 1753

DANE, Mr. R. M., *Fermanagh, N.*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 337, 340, 341 ; *July* 23, 508, 528, 556, 560, 561, 573

DAVITT, Mr. MICHAEL, *Mayo, S.*
Government Printing Contracts (Ireland) *Aug* 6, 1690
Irish Treason-felony Prisoners *July* 24, 613 ; *July* 31, 1265, 1266
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 351 ; *July* 22, 386, 387 ; *July* 23, 519 ; 3R. *July* 29, 956
Supply : £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1286

DENBIGH, Earl of
Infant Life Protection Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 418, 428
Metropolitan Railway Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 994, 999

DENNY, Colonel J. M., *Kilmarnock*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill *Aug* 6, 1733
Slavery at Zanzibar *Aug* 6, 1697
Supply of Seamen *July* 23, 470
Transmission of Seamen's Wages *Aug* 6, 1682
Truck Bill *July* 27, 775

DE VESCI, Viscount
Labourers (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1011 ; In Com. *Aug* 4, 1421, 1422, 1426
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6 1641, 1642

DEVONSHIRE, DUKE OF (Lord President of the Council)
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1615
London University Commission Bill, 2R. *July* 23, 429 ; 3R. *July* 30, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1008 ; *July* 31, 1231, 1232

DIGBY, Mr. J. K. WINGFIELD- (see WINGFIELD-DIGBY)

DILKE, Right Hon. Sir C. W., Bart., *Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 5, 1527, 1536
Business of the House *July* 31, 1266 ; *Aug* 4, 1454
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 760 ; *Aug* 6, 1696
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 725, 729, 733
Franco-Congolese Agreement *July* 30, 1021
Government
Bills *July* 21, 273
Business *July* 20, 173, 174
Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *July* 30, 1142
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 358
Light Railways Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 1133
Madagascar *July* 27, 691
Manchester and Salford Barracks *Aug* 6, 1680
Metropolitan Police Uniform *July* 31, 1245
Military Works Bill *Aug* 3, 1355, 1356
Niger Company *July* 27, 678
Public Works Loans Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1142
Shops Bill *Aug* 4, 1454
Soudan Expedition *July* 28, 808
Supply : £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1276
Truck Bill *July* 27, 767, 770, 772 ; *July* 30, 1083, 1086, 1088, 1090, 1093
Uganda Railway Bill, 2R. *July* 27, 709
Wadelai *July* 23, 471

DILLON, Mr. JOHN, *Mayo, E.*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill *Aug* 6, 1732
British South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1075
Business of the House *July* 22, 415 ; *July* 24, 612

[*cont.*

DILLON, Mr. JOHN—*cont.*
  Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 6, 1661, 1670
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 201, 225, 235, 236; *July* 21, 307, 308, 320, 321, 322, 325, 328, 336, 341, 342, 346, 348, 357; *July* 22, 369, 381, 408; *July* 23, 487, 489, 490, 492, 494, 496, 505, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 529, 549, 550, 554, 558, 561, 563, 564, 573, 574; *July* 28, 839, 845, 848, 852, 862, 871, 878, 881, 883, 884, 909, 914, 931, 934; 3R. *July* 29, 951
  Military Works (Money), In Com. *July* 20, 238, 239, 240
  Public Business *July* 21, 275
  Supply
    £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 40, 41, 55, 65
    £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1284
    £42,258 for Irish Land Commission *July* 24, 667
    £41,825 for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions (Ireland) *July* 30, 1135
    £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 24, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 637, 638, 639; *July* 29, 988, 989, 990
    £137,341 for Public Works and Buildings (Ireland) *July* 24, 663
    £2,450 for Queen's Colleges (Ireland) *July* 24, 650, 651, 655, 658, 659

*Diphtheria (Anti-toxic Serums)* (see LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD)

**Diseases of Animals Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

*Distress from Want of Employment*
  Rep. from Select Com., with Minutes of Evidence, Brought up and Read (*c.*) *July* 30, 1021

**District Councils (Water Supply Facilities) Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *July* 29, 937

DONELAN, Captain A. J. C., *Cork, E.*
  Bundoran Loan Fund *July* 31, 1255
  Compensation to Police (Ireland) *July* 20, 124, 125
  Fair Rent Application (Ireland) *July* 30, 1037
  Industrial Schools
    Boys for Navy *July* 27, 697
    Queenstown *July* 24, 609
  Irish-American Mails *July* 17, 35
  Irish Mail Service *July* 24, 598
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 28, 849
  Stone-throwing at Passenger Trains (Mullingar) *Aug* 3, 1343

DOOGAN, Mr. P. C., *Tyrone, E.*
  Death of a Boy at Cookstown (Ireland) *Aug* 6, 1687
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 566
  Supply: £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 24, 628, 645

DORCHESTER, Lord
  City and South London Railway Bill, 3R. *Aug* 6, 1557

DORINGTON, Sir JOHN E., Bart., *Gloucester, Tewkesbury*
  Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1114, 1118
  Milk Railway Rates *July* 31, 1250

DRAGE, Mr. G., *Derby*
  Truck Bill *July* 30, 1090

**Drogheda Corporation Bill**
*l.* On the Order for Consideration of Commons' Amendts.: Earl of Morley, 1417; Lord Halsbury, 1417; Earl of Belmore, 1418 *Aug* 4
  Rep. of Standing Orders Com. upon Amendts. made by Commons Considered and Agreed to; Commons' Amendts. also Considered and Agreed to *Aug* 4, 1418

**Dublin Corporation Bill**
*c.* Dr. Farquharson, (*Motion*) 1234; Mr. T. Harrington, 1234, 1238, 1241; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1235, 1239, 1241; Mr. Vesey Knox, 1235; [Mr. Speaker, 1235, 1238, 1240;] Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1237; Mr. J. J. Clancy, 1240; Colonel Gunter, 1241; (*Motion Agreed to*, 1241) *July* 31
  On Question, That Bill be Re-committed: Mr. T. M. Healy, (*Amendt.*) 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244; Mr. T. Harrington, 1242, 1243; [Mr. Speaker, 1242, 1243, 1244;] Mr. J. J. Clancy, 1242, 1243; (*Division*, 1242); Mr. Vesey Knox, (*Amendt.*) 1243, 1244; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1244) *July* 31
  Re-committed *July* 31, 1244
  Question of Privilege: Mr. T. M. Healy, 1317; [Mr. Speaker, 1317, 1318] *Aug* 1
  Mr. T. B. Curran, (*Motion*) 1329; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1337; Mr. T. Harrington, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, (*Instruction to Com.*) 1337, 1338; [Mr. Speaker, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1336, 1338, 1340, 1341;] Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1334, 1335, 1337; (*Motion withdrawn* 1336); Mr. J. Atkinson, (*Amendt.*) 1338; Sir J. Fergusson, 1339; Mr. H. C. Plunkett, 1339, 1340; (*Instruction Amended*, 1340;) Mr. J. J. Clancy, 1340; Mr. J. P. Farrell, 1340, (*Instruction as Amended Agreed to*, 1341); Mr. W. Johnston, 1341, 1432 *Aug* 3
  Rep. with Amendts. *Aug* 4, 1439
  Dr. Farquharson, (*Motion to Suspend Standing Orders*) 1651; (*Agreed to*, 1651) *Aug* 6
  Considered as Amended: Mr. Brodrick, [*New Clause*] 1651, 1652; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1652, 1655, 1658, 1659, 1667, 1668, 1674; [Mr. Speaker, 1652, 1658, 1662, 1666, 1667, 1676]; Mr. J. J. Clancy, [*New Clause*] 1653, 1654; Mr. T. Harrington, 1653, 1655, (*Amendt.*) 1657, 1658, 1663, 1665, (*Amendt.*) 1666, 1667, 1672, 1674, (*Amendt.*) 1674, 1676, 1677; Mr. J. W. Lowther, 1655;

[*cont.*

*Dublin Corporation Bill*—cont.
Mr. T. Skewes-Cox, 1655; Mr. W. Field, 1656, 1662, 1672, 1675; Mr. J. Lowther, 1660, 1672; Mr. J. Dillon, 1661, 1670; Mr. W. Johnston, 1662; Mr. J. P. Farrell, 1662, 1663; Mr. J. Redmond, 1663, 1669, 1675; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1665); Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1670; Mr. E. H. Carson, 1670, 1671, 1675; Mr. Vesey Knox, 1671, 1672, 1675; (*Divisions*, 1673, 1675) *Aug* 6
Standing Orders CCXXIII and CCXLIII Suspended *Aug* 6, 1677
Read 3° and Passed with Amendts. *Aug* 6, 1677

DUDLEY, Earl of (Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade)
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *Aug* 4, 1427
Light Railways Bill, 2R. *Aug* 4, 1429, 1433
Metropolitan Railway Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 996

Duncombe, Hon. H. V., *Cumberland, Egremont*
Business of the House (Land Law [Ireland] Bill) *July* 17, 108
Matabeleland (Arms and Ammunition) *July* 30, 1033

Dunraven, Earl of
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1179, 1180; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1586, 1589, 1613, 1649

Dyke, Right Hon. Sir W. Hart, Bart., *Kent, Dartford*
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1111

*East India Evictions (Madras Presidency)*
Return Pres. (*c.*) *July* 24, 592

**East Surrey Water Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Edinburgh General Register House Bill**
*l.* 2R. Earl of Pembroke *July* 17, 8
Read 2ª and com. *July* 17, 9
In Com., Considered; Rep. without Amendt. and Standing Com. negatived *July* 21, 245
Read 3ª and Passed *July* 23, 417

**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**
Lord President—Duke of Devonshire
Vice President—Sir John E. Gorst
*Aldingham Parish School (Ulverston)*, *Q.* Mr. T. H. Robertson; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *Aug* 3, 1350
*Berriew School*, *Q.* Mr. J. G. Talbot; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 24, 610
*Berriew School Bill* (see that Title)
*Chelsea (St. Peter's Free School)*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *Aug* 3, 1351

[*cont.*

*EDUCATION DEPARTMENT*—cont.
*Donington Education Scheme*, *Q.* Mr. H. F. Pollock; *A.* Mr. Grant Lawson *July* 17, 39
*Dublin (Royal College of Science)* *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 20, 130
*Elementary Schools (Mining Instruction)*, *Q.* Mr. Alfred Thomas; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 23, 477
*Fee Grant*
  *Irish*, *Q.* Mr. J. J. Clancy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 270
  *Scotland*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 28, 822. *Q.* Mr. W. Thorburn; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 30, 1045
  *Supplementary*
    *Irish*, *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach, Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 457
    *Scotland*, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 27, 697
*Hanwell Schools*, *Q.* Mr. E. Flower; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 31, 1249
*Heywood (St. John's School)*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *Aug* 6, 1687
*Industrial Schools*
  *Boys for Navy*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Macartney *July* 27, 697
  *Queenstown*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 609
*London University Commission Bill* (see that Title)
*Mining Instruction (Elementary Schools)*, *Q.* Mr. Alfred Thomas; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 23, 477
*Mission Schools (Zululand)*, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 31, 1264
*National*
  *Education in Ireland (Commissioners Report)*, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 261
  *School*
    *Houses (Ireland)*, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 690
    *Teachers (Ireland)*, *Qs.* Mr. Engledow; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 17, 32; *July* 20, 151. *Q.* Mr. D. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 3, 1354
    *Teachers' Pensions (Cork County)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 149
*Peap's Charity (Northamptonshire)*, *Q.* Mr. F. A. Channing; *A.* Mr. G. Lawson *July* 31, 1247
*Pension*
  *Fund (Irish Teachers)*, *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox, Mr. J. J. Clancy; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 261. *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox, Mr. W. Field, Mr. J. J. Clancy; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach, Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 456
  *National School Teachers (Cork County)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field: *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 149
*Schools*
  *Accommodation (Letter-Gunnell, Longford County)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 3, 1353
  *Aldingham Parish (Ulverston)*, *Q.* Mr. T. H. Robertson; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *Aug* 3, 1350

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*EDUCATION DEPARTMENT*—cont.
  *Schools*—cont.
    *Berriew*, *Q.* Mr. J. G. Talbot; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 24, 610
    *Board Expenditure*, *Qs.* Mr. T. P. Whittaker; *As.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 31, 1251
    *Hanwell*, *Q.* Mr. E. Flower; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 31, 1249
    *Houses (Ireland)*, *Q.* Mr. Engledow; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 151
    *Industrial*
      *Boys for Navy*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Macartney *July* 27, 697
      *Queenstown*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 609
    *Mistresses (Ireland)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 28, 819
    *St. John's (Heywood)*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *Aug* 6, 1687
    *St. Matthew's (Ponders End)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Yoxall; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 30, 1028
    *St. Peter's Free (Chelsea)*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *Aug* 3, 1351
    *Treats (Hired Wagons)*, *Q.* Mr. F. B. Mildmay; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *Aug* 4, 1449
    *Zululand (Mission)*, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 31, 1264
  *Science and Art Department (Attendances)*, *Q.* Sir J. F. Leese; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 30, 1051
  *Teachers' (Irish) Pension Fund*, *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox, Mr. J. J. Clancy; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 261. *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox, Mr. W. Field, Mr. J. J. Clancy; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach, Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 456
  *Teachers' Registration Bill* (see that Title)
  *Temporary Type-writing Clerk*, *Q.* Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 21, 268

**Election Petitions Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *July* 21, 364

**Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Elementary Education Act (1873) Amendment Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *Aug* 3, 1357

ELLIS, Mr. THOMAS E., *Merionethshire*
  Merionethshire Mines Committee *July* 30, 1054
  Open Quarries *July* 28, 823
  Supply: £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1290, 1292

EMLY, Lord
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1620

ENGLEDOW, Mr. C. J., *Kildare, N.*
  Carlow County
    Grand Jury *July* 21, 255; *July* 23, 461, 462
    Infirmary *July* 20, 132, 133; *July* 23, 460, 461
    Postal Arrangements *July* 20, 133
  Curragh Camp *July* 17, 32; *July* 20, 150
  Ex-officio Guardians (Ireland) *July* 20, 138
  Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) *July* 20, 127
  National School Teachers (Ireland) *July* 17, 32; *July* 20, 151
  Postal
    Arrangements (Carlow County) *July* 20, 133
    Telegraphic Facilities (Ireland) *July* 21, 248
  School Houses (Ireland) *July* 20, 151

ERNE, Earl of
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1605

ESMONDE, Sir T. H. GRATTAN, Bart., *Kerry, W.*
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 354, 355, 356, 358; *July* 22, 366
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill (Purchase Clauses) *July* 23, 470
  Mail Service
    Dublin and London *July* 23, 476
    Irish *July* 24, 597
  National Gallery of Ireland *July* 31, 1250
  Samoa *July* 27, 691
  Supply: £1,643 for National Gallery of Ireland *July* 24, 649

EVANS, Mr. S. T., *Glamorgan, Mid*
  Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 739, 744, 747, 748, 754
  Government Business *July* 20, 188
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 28, 927
  Military Works (Money), In Com. *July* 20, 240
  Stannaries Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1412
  Truck Bill *July* 27, 781

*Evening Continuation Schools*
  Return Pres. (*c.*) *July* 24, 592

**Expiring Laws Continuance Bill**
*c.* Intro. Mr. Hanbury; Read 1º *July* 31, 1316. Mr. T. M. Healy *July* 31, 1316
  2R. Mr. J. P. Farrell, 1416; Mr. Hanbury, 1416; [Mr. Speaker, 1416;] Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1416 *Aug* 3
  Read 2° and com. *Aug* 3, 1416

**Falmouth Rectory Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

FARQUHARSON, Dr. ROBERT, *Aberdeenshire, W.*
  Dublin Corporation Bill *July* 31, 1234; *Aug* 6, 1651
  Financial Relations Inquiry *July* 20, 153
  Gold Coast (Native and European Doctors) *July* 27, 694
  House of Commons Lobby (Mosaics) *Aug* 3, 1352
  Volunteer Medical Staff *July* 24, 603

FARRELL, Mr. J. P., *Cavan, W.*
  Amalgamation of Poor Law Unions (Ireland) Bill *Aug* 4, 1447
  Arbitration (Ireland) *July* 30, 1053
  Cavan
    Bailieborough Union *Aug* 6, 1686
    Belturbet Military Barracks *Aug* 6, 1679
    Eviction Notices *Aug* 6, 1677
    Labourers' Dwellings *July* 27, 695
    Light Railways (Leitrim and) *July* 17, 26
    Potato Disease *Aug* 6, 1685
  Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 6, 1662, 1663
  Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, 2R. *Aug* 3, 1416
  Irish
    Local Taxation, etc. *Aug* 4, 1447
    National Schools (Work Mistresses) *Aug* 6, 1678
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 494; *July* 28, 861
  Limerick County Asylum *July* 17, 26
  Locomotives on Highways (Re-committed) Bill, 3R. *Aug* 1, 1318
  Longford Canal Harbour *July* 30, 1053
  Mail Service (Ireland) *July* 30, 1054
  Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill, 2R. *Aug* 3, 1409
  Public Works Loans Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1143
  Sale of Estates (Ireland) *Aug* 3, 1347
  School Accommodation (Letter-Gunnell, Longford County) *Aug* 3, 1353, 1354
  Supply
    £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 76, 78
    £42,258 for Irish Land Commission *July* 24, 667
    £41,825 for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions (Ireland) *July* 30, 1136
    £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 24, 635, 637

*Fee Fund (House of Lords)*
  Account Pres. (*c.*) *Aug* 5, 1517

FENWICK, Mr. CHARLES, *Northumberland, Wansbeck*
  Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 754
  Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 728

FERGUSON, Mr. R. C. MUNRO, *Leith Burghs*
  Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1370; *Aug* 4, 1476, 1485; *Aug* 5, 1520, 1539; *Aug* 6, 1714, 1723, 1734, 1745
  West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1752

FERGUSSON, Right Hon. Sir JAMES, Bart., *Manchester, N.E.*
  Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1380; *Aug* 4, 1486, 1504
  Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 3, 1339
  Government Business *July* 20, 172
  Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1115

FFRENCH, Mr. P., *Wexford, S.*
  Postal and Telegraphic Facilities (Ireland) *July* 21, 249

FIELD, Mr. W., *Dublin, St. Patrick*
  Army
    Food Supplies (Ireland) *July* 30, 1045
    Supplies (Foreign) *July* 24, 600
  Commissioners of Irish Lights (Wrongful Dismissal) *July* 21, 271; *July* 27, 696; *July* 30, 1049; *July* 31, 1260
  County Courts (Ireland) *July* 23, 463
  Customs Office (Dublin) *July* 17, 33, 34
  Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 6, 1656, 1662, 1672, 1675
  Irish
    American Mails *July* 17, 34, 35
    Mail Service *July* 24, 599
    Mails (New Contract) *July* 20, 149
    Teachers' Pension Fund *July* 23, 457
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 28, 892
  Mountjoy Railway Station *July* 30, 1047
  National School Teachers' Pension (County Cork) *July* 20, 149
  Post Office Sorters *July* 31, 1259
  Railway Cattle Trucks *July* 20, 139, 140
  Rate Collection (Ireland) *July* 24, 599
  Supply
    £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 68
    £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 17, 100; *July* 24, 632, 639, 646, 649
  Town Tenants (Ireland) *July* 27, 697

**Finance Bill**
*c.* 3R. Mr. Gibson Bowles, 980; Mr. J. H. Lewis, 981; Colonel Milward, 984; Mr. T. Lough, 985; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 985, 986; Mr. M. Healy, 986 *July* 29
  Read 3º and Passed *July* 29, 286
*l.* Read 1ª *July* 30, 1000
  Read 2ª; Com. negatived: Standing Order XXXIX Considered and Dispensed with *Aug* 4, 1419
  Read 3ª and Passed *Aug* 4, 1419

FINCH-HATTON, Hon. HAROLD H., *Notts, Newark*
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill. In Com. *July* 21, 355

FINLAY, Sir R. B. (Solicitor General), *Inverness Burghs*
  Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1463, 1484, 1485; *Aug* 5, 1547, 1548
  Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1112, 1113, 1115, 1121, 1122, 1127

**Fisheries Acts (Norfolk and Suffolk) Amendment Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Fishery Acts Amendment Bill**
*l.* Read 3ª and Passed *July* 17, 9
  (For Questions see TRADE, BOARD OF)

FITZGERALD, Sir R. U. PENROSE, Bart., *Cambridge*
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 214; *July* 23, 556; *July* 28, 930
  Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1126

**FLANNERY, Mr. J. FORTESCUE**, *Yorkshire, W.R., Shipley*
- Boiler Explosion *(H.M.S. "Blake") Aug* 6, 1688
- Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 729
- Saltaire Railway Station *July* 28, 816
- Truck Bill *July* 30, 1092

**FLAVIN, Mr. M. J.**, *Kerry, N.*
- Aremberg Chute Estate (Kerry County) *July* 21, 253
- English and Irish Mails *July* 24, 601
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 361; *July* 23, 534, 568; *July* 28, 842, 861
- Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1115
- Supply
  - £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 72, 73
  - £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 29, 988

**FLETCHER, Sir HENRY, Bart.**, *Sussex, Lewes*
- Lee-Metford Ammunition at Bisley *Aug* 6, 1692

**FLOWER, Mr. E.**, *Bradford, W.*
- Hanwell Schools *July* 31, 1249
- Prison Treatment of Dr. Jameson and his Colleagues *July* 31, 1269

**FLYNN, Mr. J. C.**, *Cork, N.*
- Abdullah Pasha
  - Cretan Assembly, and *July* 27, 700; *July* 31, 1257
  - Crete, in *July* 20, 136, 137; *July* 28, 821; *Aug* 4, 1444
- British South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1071
- Cretan Assembly *July* 27, 701; *July* 28, 821; *July* 31, 1257; *Aug* 4, 1445
- Crete (Fighting in) *July* 27, 701
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com., *July* 20, 203, 216; *July* 21, 335, 336, 338, 349; *July* 23, 512, 513, 549, 573, 574; *July* 28, 870, 882, 883, 884; 3R. *July* 29, 941
- Mail Service
  - Dublin and London *July* 23, 476
  - Irish *July* 24, 598
- Military Governor of Crete *Aug* 4, 1444
- Mill Street Union Election (Cork County) *Aug* 4, 1445, 1446, 1447
- Supply
  - £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 69, 75
  - £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 24, 633
  - £2,450 for Queen's Colleges (Ireland) *July* 24, 656

**FOREIGN OFFICE**

Secretary of State—Marquess of SALISBURY
Under Secretary of State—Mr. G. N. CURZON

- *Abdullah Pasha*
  - *Cretan Assembly, and*, *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 700
  - *Crete, in*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 28, 821

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*FOREIGN OFFICE*—cont.
- *Armenians (Persecutions of)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 30, 1047
- *Arrest of British Seamen*, *Q.* Mr. W. S. Robson; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 17, 30
- *Boyce (Dr.), The late*, *Q.* Mr. Bhownaggree; *A.* Mr. Curzon *Aug* 6, 1693
- *British Trade Abroad (Commercial Attachés)*, *Qs.* Sir H. Vincent, Sir A. K. Rollit, Mr. Gibson Bowles; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 676
- *Calcutta (Overland Railway to)*, *Q.* Mr. J. M. Maclean; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 21, 247
- *Consulate (Northern Syria)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Bryce; *As.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *Aug* 3, 1353
- *Cretan*
  - *Affairs*, *Q.* Mr. J. Bryce; *A.* Mr. Curzon *Aug* 4, 1451
  - *Assembly*
    - *Abdullah Pasha, and*, *Qs.* Mr J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 700
    - *Opening of*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Curzon *Aug* 4, 1445
    - *Turkish Tongue*, *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 701; *July* 28, 821
  - *Convention at Canea*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 31, 1257
  - *Distress Fund*, *Qs.* Mr. E. J. C. Morton, Mr. Gibson Bowles; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 17, 37
- *Crete*
  - *Abdullah Pasha in*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 28, 821
  - *Fighting in*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 701
  - *Great Powers and the*, *Qs.* Mr. C. J. Monk, Mr. Gibson Bowles, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 20, 136
  - *Military Governor of*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Curzon *Aug* 4, 1444
- *Disturbances*
  - *Diarbekir*, *Qs.* Mr. F. S. Stevenson; *As.* Mr Curzon *July* 20, 145
  - *Niksar*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Curzon *Aug* 4, 1450
- *Egin and Aintab (Affairs at)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 20, 142
- *Franco-Congolese Agreement*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 30, 1021
- *Herrings at St. Petersburg*, *Q.* Mr. J. W. Crombie; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 20, 134
- *Khamis (Pastor)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Wilson. *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 703
- *Kharput (Massacre near)*, *Q.* Lord Stanmore; *A.* Marquess of Salisbury *July* 20, 111
- *Lothaire (Major)*, *Q.* Mr. H. D. Greene; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 23, 480
- *Madagascar*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 691
- *Mombasa-Uganda Railway*, *Qs.* Mr. R. W. Perks; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 23, 468
- *Morocco (Slave Trade in)*, *Q.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Mr. Curzon *Aug* 6, 1698
- *Nazim Pasha and the Armenian Councils*, *Q.* Mr. F. S. Stevenson; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 693
- *Niger*
  - *Coast Protectorate*, *Q.* Mr. W. F. Lawrence; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 30, 1030
  - *Company*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 678
  - *Overland Railway to Calcutta*, *Q.* Mr. J. M. Maclean; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 21, 247

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*FOREIGN OFFICE*—cont.
*Samoa*, *Q.* Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 27, 691
*Slavery at Zanzibar*, *Qs.* Mr. J. A. Pease, Colonel Denny, Mr. J. H. Dalziel; *As.* Mr. Curzon *Aug* 6, 1697
*Slave Trade in Morocco*, *Q.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Mr. Curzon *Aug* 6, 1698
*Statistics of Cotton, Woollen, and Iron Trades*, *Q.* Mr. J. Kenyon; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 30, 1041
*Syria (Northern Consulate)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Bryce; *As.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *Aug* 3, 1353
*Uganda Railway Bill* (see that Title)
*Venezuela*
  *Arbitration and*—Marquess of Salisbury (*Announcement*) *July* 17, 1
  *Statement of Case*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Morley; *As.* Mr. Curzon, Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 27, 687
*Wadelai*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 23, 471
*Zanzibar (Slavery at)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. A. Pease, Colonel Denny, Mr. J. H. Dalziel: *As.* Mr. Curzon *Aug* 6, 1697

Fowler, Right Hon. Sir H. H., *Wolverhampton, E.*
Business of the House (Saturday Sitting) *July* 31, 1266
Government Business *July* 20, 189
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1111, 1118
Supply: £9,600 for Commissioners in Lunacy Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1315

**Foyle College and Londonderry Academical Institution (Amalgamation) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Freshwater, Yarmouth, and Newport Railway Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

*Friendly Societies*
Paper Pres. (*c.*) *July* 17, 25

**Friendly Societies Bill**
*c.* In Com. (having been re-committed); Rep. without Amendt. *July* 21, 363
Read 3º and Passed *July* 21, 363
*l.* Read 1ª *July* 23, 417
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 27, 673
In Com. *July* 28, 804
Rep. without Amendt.; Standing Com. negatived *July* 28, 804
Read 3ª and Passed *July* 30, 1014

Galloway, Mr. W. J., *Manchester, S.W.*
Military Barracks (Manchester and Salford) *July* 21, 261; *Aug* 6, 1679, 1680
Queen's Reign *Aug* 6, 1701

Galway, Viscount
Yeomanry (Long Service Medal) *July* 20, 113

**Gas and Water Provisional Orders Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

Gedge, Mr. Sydney, *Walsall*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 28, 912, 915

George, Mr. D. Lloyd- (see Lloyd-George)

Gibbs, Hon. Vicary, *Herts, St. Albans*
Loans to Parish Authorities *July* 27, 675

**Glasgow Parliamentary Divisions Bill**
*l.* Read 3ª and Passed *July* 17, 9
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

Goddard, Mr. D. F., *Ipswich*
Gold Coast (Land Commission) *July* 28, 819

Godson, Mr. A. F., *Kidderminster*
Assize Arrangements *July* 21, 272

GORST, Right Hon. Sir JOHN E. (Vice President of the Council on Education), *Cambridge University*
Aldingham Parish School (Ulverston) *Aug* 3, 1350
Chelsea (St. Peter's Free School) *Aug* 3, 1351
Civil Service Estimates *July* 30, 1034
Dublin (Royal College of Science) *July* 20, 131
Elementary Schools (Mining Instruction) *July* 23, 477
Heywood (St. John's School) *Aug* 6, 1687
Royal College of Science (Dublin) *July* 20, 131
School Board Expenditure *July* 31, 1252
Schools
  Aldingham Parish (Ulverston) *Aug* 3, 1350
  St. John's (Heywood) *Aug* 6, 1687
  St. Matthew's (Ponders End) *July* 30, 1028
  St. Peter's Free (Chelsea) *Aug* 3, 1351
Science and Art Department (Attendances) *July* 30, 1051

GOSCHEN, Right Hon. GEORGE J. (First Lord of the Admiralty), *St. George's, Hanover Square*
Boiler Explosion *(H.M.S. "Blake")* *Aug* 4, 1442; *Aug* 6, 1689
Hamoaze (Queen's Harbour Master for) *Aug* 6, 1693
*H.M.S. "Magpie"* (Extra Leave) *July* 28, 814
Naval
  Manœuvres *July* 20, 141
  Reserve *July* 23, 473
  Sub-Lieutenants *Aug* 4, 1443
Queen's Harbour Master for Hamoaze *Aug* 6, 1693
Royal Navy
  Boatswains *July* 28, 814
  Shipwrights *July* 28, 826
Torpedo Boats (Volunteer Crews) *July* 20, 135

GOURLEY, Colonel Sir E. T., *Sunderland*
  Mercantile Marine (Examination of Masters and Mates) *Aug* 6, 1680
  Transmission of Seamen's Wages *Aug* 6, 1681

*Government Offices (Appropriation of Sites)*
  Rep. from Select Com. Brought up (*c.*) *July* 23, 452

*Great Britain and Venezuela* (see FOREIGN OFFICE)

**Great Northern Railway Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Great Western Railway (Denbighshire Railways) Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

GREENE, Mr. H. D., *Shrewsbury*
  Lothaire (Major) *July* 23, 480

GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN, Mr. A. S. T., *Kent, Tunbridge*
  British Bechuanaland *July* 28, 825

GRIFFITH, Mr. ELLIS J., *Anglesey*
  Bishopric of Bristol Act (Amendment) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 1, 1328
  Local Loans (Wales) *Aug* 6, 1693

GULL, Sir CAMERON, Bart., *Devonshire, Barnstaple*
  Excursion Steamers
    Bristol Channel *July* 27, 685
    Drunkenness *Aug* 3, 1355

GUNTER, Colonel ROBERT, *Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash*
  Dublin Corporation Bill *July* 31, 1241

HALDANE, Mr. R. B., *Haddington*
  Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1375, 1402; *Aug* 4, 1509; *Aug* 5, 1521, 1541, 1548; *Aug* 6, 1729, 1744

HALSBURY, LORD (Lord Chancellor)
  City and South London Railway Bill, 3R. *Aug* 6, 1559
  Drogheda Corporation Bill *Aug* 4, 1417
  Judicial Trustees Bill, 2R. *July* 20, 117; In Com. *July* 24, 589, 590
  London University Commission Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 1008
  Post Office Consolidation Bill *July* 30, 1015
  Rents in Ireland *July* 17, 23

HAMILTON, RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE (Secretary of State for India), *Middlesex, Ealing*
  Bombay
    Cotton Trade (Madras and) *July* 30, 1042
    Liquor Licence *July* 28, 814
  East India Accounts *July* 30, 1046
  European Troops (India) *July* 30, 1029
  Jhalawar (Maharaja of) *July* 21, 251, 279, 285, 288
  Kafiristan *July* 31, 1251
  Liquor Licence (Bombay) *July* 28, 814
  Madras
    City Civil Court *July* 30, 1030
    Cotton Trade (Bombay and) *July* 30, 1042
    Infantry Regiments *July* 30, 1023
  Pasteur Institute (India) *Aug* 4, 1452
  Railways
    Extension (Burma) *July* 31, 1253
    Extension (India) *July* 20, 146
    Indian (Traffic Receipts) *July* 31, 1253
  Reformatory Schools Act, 1896 (India) *Aug* 4, 1444

HANBURY, RIGHT HON. R. W. (Financial Secretary to the Treasury), *Preston*
  Agricultural Parcel Post *July* 30, 1050
  American (and Irish) Mails *July* 17, 34, 35
  Antrim County (Postal Arrangements) *July* 24, 596
  Ashford Fire Brigade *July* 24, 593
  Belfast
    Female Telegraphists *Aug* 6, 1683, 1684
    Letters from *Aug* 4, 1441
  Bristol Channel (Excursion Steamers) *July* 27, 686
  Carlow County (Postal Arrangements) *July* 20, 134
  Carriage of Letters (Irish Railways) *July* 28, 811
  Carrickmacross (Drumbrackin Post Office) *July* 31, 1258
  Castlecomer Post Office *July* 28, 809
  Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway *July* 17, 26; *July* 20, 147; *July* 27, 689
  Continental Mail *July* 31, 1264
  County Court Fees *Aug* 6, 1695
  Crown (Property Escheated to) *July* 28, 812
  Customs
    Duty (Parcel Post) *July* 27, 679
    Offices (Dublin) *July* 17, 33, 34; *July* 28, 830
    Outdoor Officers *Aug* 3, 1354
    Statistical Department *July* 21, 269, 270; *July* 28, 810
  Destruction of Mail Van (Great Northern of Ireland Railway) *July* 23, 479
  Drainage
    Charges (Ireland) *July* 23, 474
    Work (Reclamation and) (Ireland) *July* 17, 30
  Drumbrackin Post Office (Carrickmacross) *July* 31, 1258
  Dublin
    Customs Office *July* 17, 33, 34; *July* 28, 830
    General Post Office *July* 20, 120
    Mail Service (London and) *July* 23, 476; *July* 31, 1259

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HANBURY, Right Hon. R. W.—*cont.*
  Dundalk (Income Tax) *Aug* 4, 1440; *Aug* 6, 1699
  Dunraymond Postmaster (Monaghan County) *July* 20, 132
  Education Department (Temporary Typewriting Clerk) *July* 21, 269
  English and Irish Mails *July* 24, 601; *Aug* 3, 1343, 1344
  Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, Intro. *July* 31, 1316; 2R. *Aug* 3, 1416
  Female Telegraphists (Belfast) *Aug* 6, 1683, 1684
  Fire in Parcel Post Van *July* 30, 1027
  General Post Office (Dublin) *July* 20, 120
  Government Printing Contracts (Ireland) *Aug* 6, 1690
  Income Tax
    Commissioners of *July* 31, 1260, 1261
    Dundalk *Aug* 4, 1440; *Aug* 6, 1699
  Ireland
    Drainage and Reclamation Work *July* 17, 30
    Drainage Charges *July* 23, 474
    Government Printing Contracts *Aug* 6, 1690
    Great Northern Railway (Destruction of Mail Van) *July* 23, 479
    Loans to Fishermen *July* 24, 603
    Lunatic Asylums *July* 20, 126
    Postal and Telegraph Facilities *July* 21, 248, 249
    Post Office Appointments *July* 23, 460
    Royal Canal Company *July* 20, 138; *July* 23, 466
  Irish
    College (Paris) *Aug* 3, 1345
    Mails (American and) *July* 17, 34, 35
    Mail Service *July* 24, 597, 598, 599
    Mails (New Contract) *July* 20, 149
    Railways (Carriage of Letters) *July* 28, 811
    Teachers' Pension Fund *July* 21, 261; *July* 23, 457
  Kinsale (Old Head of)
    Postmaster *July* 27, 680
    Post Office *July* 28, 826
  Labourers' Scheme (Tipperary) *Aug* 4, 1440
  Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill *July* 27 692
  Leitrim Light Railway (Cavan and) *July* 17, 26; *July* 20, 147; *July* 27, 689
  Letters
    Belfast *Aug* 4, 1441
    Carriage of (Irish Railways) *July* 28, 811
  Limerick
    Mails *July* 31, 1264
    Post Office *Aug* 6, 1696
  Loans to Fishermen (Ireland) *July* 24, 603
  Local Loans (Wales) *Aug* 6, 1694
  London and Dublin Mail Service *July* 23, 476; *July* 31, 1259
  Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) *July* 20, 126
  Mails
    American and Irish *July* 17, 34, 35
    Continental *July* 31, 1264
    Destruction of Van (Great Northern of Ireland Railway) *July* 23, 479
    English and Irish *July* 24, 601; *Aug* 3, 1343, 1344
    Limerick *July* 31, 1264
    London and Dublin Service *July* 23, 476; *July* 31, 1259
    New Contract, Ireland *July* 20, 149

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HANBURY, Right Hon. R. W.—*cont.*
  Mails—*cont.*
    Service in Ireland *July* 25, 597, 598, 599; *July* 30, 1054
  Manchester (Postal Delivery) *July* 28, 825
  Monaghan County (Dunraymond Postmaster) *July* 20, 132
  National Gallery of Scotland *Aug* 6, 1700
  New Contract (Irish Mails) *July* 20, 149
  Old Head of Kinsale
    Postmaster *July* 27, 680
    Post Office *July* 28, 826
  Outdoor Officers (Customs) *Aug* 3, 1354
  Parcel Post
    Agricultural *July* 30, 1050
    Customs Duty *July* 27, 679
    Fire in Van *July* 30, 1027
    Re-direction *July* 20, 143
  Paris (Irish College) *Aug* 3, 1345
  Pattern Post *July* 21, 251; *July* 28, 809; *July* 30, 1028
  Postal
    Arrangements
      Antrim County *July* 24, 596
      Carlow County *July* 20, 134
    Delivery (Manchester) *July* 28, 825
    Regulations (Transmission of Cheques) *July* 27, 688, 689
    Telegraphic Facilities (Ireland) *July* 21, 248, 249
  Postmaster (Old Head of Kinsale) *July* 27, 680
  Post Office
    Appointments (Ireland) *July* 23, 460
    Castlecomer *July* 28, 809
    Drumbrackin (Carrickmacross) *July* 31, 1258
    Dublin (General) *July* 20, 120
    Employés *July* 20, 140
    Kinsale (Old Head of) *July* 28, 826
    Limerick *Aug* 6, 1696
    Sorters *July* 31, 1259
  Property Escheated to Crown *July* 28, 812
  Public Works Loan Bill, Intro. *July* 27, 788; 2R. *July* 30, 1142, 1143; In Com. *Aug* 1, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1324, 1325, 1326
  Public Works Loans (Remission), In Com. *July* 31, 1316
  Royal Canal Company (Ireland) *July* 20, 138; *July* 23, 466
  Science and Art Department (South Kensington *July* 27, 684
  Scotland (National Gallery of) *Aug* 6, 1700
  Statistical Office (Customs) *July* 21, 269, 270; *July* 28, 810
  Supplementary Fee Grants *July* 23, 458
  Supply
    £42,258 for Irish Land Commission *July* 24, 667
    £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 17, 90, 92, 93, 96, 97, 100; *July* 24, 614, 628, 630, 631; *July* 29, 989, 990
    £137,341 for Public Works and Buildings (Ireland) *July* 24, 663
    £24,597 for Public Works Office (Ireland), Salaries and Expenses *July* 30, 1134
    £19,503 for Railways (Ireland) *July* 24, 664
    £376,571 for Stationery and Printing *Aug* 5, 1554
    £75,656 for Supreme Court of Judicature and Other Legal Departments in Ireland *July* 24, 666

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HANBURY, Right Hon. R. W.—*cont.*
Telegraphists
Female (Belfast) *Aug* 6, 1683, 1684
Leave *July* 24, 607
Temporary Typewriting Clerk (Education Department) *July* 21, 269
Tipperary Labourers' Scheme *Aug* 4, 1440
Transmission of Cheques (Postal Regulations) *July* 27, 688, 689
Wales (Local Loans) *Aug* 6, 1694
Welsh Wills (Translation) *Aug* 3, 1348

HARCOURT, Right Hon. Sir W. G. VERNON, *Monmouthshire, W.*
Agricultural Land Rating Bill *Aug* 6, 1702, 1703
British South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1061, 1067
Business of the House *July* 23, 485, 486
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 738, 745, 757
Government Business *July* 20, 161, 163, 167, 185, 190
Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 28, 848 ; 3R. *July* 29, 969, 974, 976
Public Business *July* 21, 275, 276
Twelve o' Clock Rule *July* 17, 40
Uganda Railway Bill, 2R. *July* 27, 716, 717, 719, 720, 722

HARRINGTON, Mr. T., *Dublin City, Harbour*
Dublin Corporation Bill, *July* 31, 1234, 1238, 1241, 1242, 1243 ; *Aug* 3, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338 ; *Aug* 6, 1653, 1655, 1657, 1658, 1663, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1672, 1674, 1676, 1677
General Post Office (Dublin) *July* 20, 120
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com., *July* 20, 215, 235 ; *July* 21, 308, 322, 328, 349 ; *July* 23, 564 ; *July* 28, 884, 912
Portrane Asylum *July* 27, 685
Supply
£616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 17, 101
£2,450 for Queen's Colleges (Ireland) *July* 24, 652
£75,656 for Supreme Court of Judicature and Other Legal Departments in Ireland *July* 24, 666

HARRIS, Lord
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill *Aug* 6, 1561
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 16) Bill *July* 28, 803
Pollution of Rivers *July* 24, 585
Provisional Order Bills *July* 24, 581 ; *July* 28, 799
Public Health (Ports) Bill, 2R. *July* 20, 118

HARRISON, Mr. CHARLES, *Plymouth*
Incidence of Taxation Inquiry *July* 28, 830

HARWOOD, Mr. GEORGE, *Bolton*
Truck Bill *July* 27, 772, 773, 777, 779

HASLETT, Sir JAMES H., *Belfast, N.*
Supply: £137,341 for Public Works and Buildings (Ireland) *July* 24, 663

HAVELOCK-ALLAN, Sir HENRY M., Bart., *Durham, S.E.*
British South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1074, 1075
Metropolitan Police (Summer Clothing) *July* 23, 471
Rhodesia (Food Supplies) *July* 31, 1262
Troops in South Africa *July* 20, 148

HAYDEN, Mr. L. P., *Roscommon, S.*
Customs
Outdoor Officers *Aug* 3, 1354
Statistical Office *July* 21, 270
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 321, 328, 329

HAZELL, Mr. WALTER, *Leicester*
Corrupt Commission *July* 31, 1267

HEALY, Mr. MAURICE, *Cork*
Compensation to Police (Ireland) *July* 20, 123, 124
Drainage and Reclamation Work (Ireland) *July* 17, 30
Finance Bill, 3R. *July* 29, 986
Irish Land Commission (Land Certificate) *July* 24, 594
Judicial Trustees Bill *July* 28, 831
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 208, 233, 235, 236 ; *July* 21, 296, 299, 301, 319, 320, 325, 329, 350, 351, 353, 354, 356, 361, 362 ; *July* 22, 379, 380, 381, 385, 392, 394, 397, 398, 399, 401, 402, 404, 406 ; *July* 23, 487, 490, 491, 508, 510, 546, 551, 557, 565, 571, 574 ; *July* 28, 818, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 843, 866, 867, 868, 869, 882, 884, 886, 888, 891, 892, 893, 894, 896, 897, 898, 906, 907, 908, 910, 911, 912, 917, 918, 919, 923, 932, 936
Land Purchase Acts (Advances) *July* 24, 595
Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) *July* 20, 125, 126, 127
Old Head of Kinsale
Postmaster *July* 27, 680
Post Office *July* 28, 826
Public Works Loans Bill, In Com. *Aug* 1, 1321, 1323
Supply
£26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 59, 60
£616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 24, 642

HEALY, Mr. T. M., *Louth, N.*
Assistant Land Commissioners (Ireland) *July* 23, 481
Ballymena (Antrim) (Board of Guardians) *July* 23, 464, 465
British South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1072
Business of the House *July* 17, 108 ; *July* 22, 415
Charge of Perjury
Cork Assizes *July* 31, 1254
Kerry County *July* 20, 128, 129, 130
Dublin Corporation Bill *July* 31, 1235, 1239, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244 ; *Aug* 1, 1317 ; *Aug* 3, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1333, 1334, 1335 ; 1337 ; *Aug* 6, 1652, 1655, 1658, 1659, 1667, 1668, 1674

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Healy, Mr. T. M.—*cont.*
Expiring Laws Continuance *July* 31, 1316
Government Business *July* 20, 190
Land Judges' Court (Ireland) *July* 27, 683
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 197, 204, 205, 206, 209, 222, 228, 229, 237; *July* 21, 296, 297, 298, 299, 301, 302, 303, 306, 318, 322, 323, 324, 327, 336, 339, 340, 341, 346, 350, 351, 354; *July* 22, 370, 377, 380, 384, 385, 388, 393, 396, 397, 398, 400, 402, 412; *July* 23, 486, 488, 489, 490, 492, 494, 496, 505, 512, 537, 547, 548, 549, 550, 552, 553, 554, 556, 557, 558, 563, 565, 567, 570, 571, 572, 579; *July* 28, 838, 844, 855, 864, 870, 872, 878, 882, 885, 886, 887, 891, 892, 893, 894, 897, 904, 905, 911, 912, 916, 918, 923, 926, 930, 933, 934, 936; 3R. *July* 29, 941, 978
Licence Duties (Dublin) *July* 17, 29
Locomotives on Highways (Excise Duty), In Com. *July* 27, 784
Military Works (Money), In Com. *July* 20, 239
Prisoners' Aid Societies *July* 20, 131
Public Works Loans Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1142; In Com. *Aug* 1, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1326
Public Works Loans (Remission), In Com. *July* 31, 1316
Railways (Ireland) Bill, 3R. *July* 27, 787
Royal College of Science (Dublin) *July* 20, 130, 131
Supply
  £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 46, 49, 50, 54, 64
  £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1289
  £41,825 for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions (Ireland) *July* 30, 1136, 1137
  £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 17, 93, 94, 97; *July* 24, 629, 630
  £24,597 for Public Works Office (Ireland) *July* 30, 1134, 1135
Tipperary Labourers' Scheme *Aug* 4, 1440
Transvaal Raid *July* 30, 1043
Ulster King of Arms (Records) *July* 27, 683

Heaton, Mr. J. Henniker, *Canterbury*
Agricultural Parcel Post *July* 30, 1049
Ashford Fire Brigade *July* 24, 592
Inland Pattern Post *July* 21, 251
Parcel Post
  Customs Duty *July* 27, 678
  Re-direction *July* 20, 143
Pattern Post *July* 28, 808; *July* 30, 1027

Hedderwick, Mr. T. C. H., *Wick Burghs*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1396, 1406; *Aug* 4, 1483, 1510, 1513; *Aug* 5, 1525; *Aug* 6, 1746
Barrack Accommodation (Dingwall) *July* 27, 675
Naval Reserve Vessel (Kirkwall) *July* 27, 702

Hemphill, Right Hon. Serjeant C. H., *Tyrone, N.*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 203, 204, 232, 234, 236; *July* 21, 305, 317, 326, 337, 338; *July* 22, 398, 399; *July* 23, 490, 491, 495, 509, 521, 547, 551, 552, 555, 562, 565, 568; *July* 28, 839, 853, 854, 873, 884, 898, 909

Herschell, Lord
Infant Life Protection Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 426
Judicial Trustees Bill, 2R. *July* 20, 118
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1636, 1637
London University Commission Bill, 2R. *July* 23, 433; 3R. *July* 30, 1005
Post Office Consolidation Bill *July* 30, 1017

*Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works Expenditure)*
Return Pres. (*c.*) *Aug* 5, 1517

Hill, Colonel Sir E. Stock, *Bristol, S.*
Shipowners' Liability (European States) *July* 21, 246

Hogan, Mr. J. F., *Tipperary, Mid*
Covent Garden Theatrical Fund *July* 21, 259; *July* 27, 695
Emigrants' Information Office *July* 27, 682
Judicial Committee (Colonial Judge) *July* 27, 696
Street Collections *July* 21, 258
Transvaal Raid *July* 30, 1042

Holborn, Mr. J. G., *Lanark, N.W.*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1476; *Aug* 5, 1520; *Aug* 6, 1734
Public Works Loans Bill, In Com. *Aug* 1, 1320

Holland, Hon. L. R., *Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley*
Drowning Cases (River Lea) *Aug* 4, 1441
Truck Bill *July* 30, 1080

**HOME DEPARTMENT**

Secretary of State—Sir M. W. Ridley
Under Secretary of State—Mr. Jesse Collings
*Bakehouses, Q.* Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 27, 692
*Bottling Beer (Factory Regulations) Q.* Mr. W. Allen; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 28, 829
*Burglary, Charge of (St. Helens), Qs.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 28, 825; *Aug* 3, 1352
*Burial Board (Ulverston), Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 28, 812
*Check-weighman, Claim by (Wakefield), Q.* Mr. B. Pickard; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 31, 1261
*Coal Mines Regulation Bill, Qs.* Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *Aug* 6, 1696 (For Debate see Title of Bill)
*Convict Prison Warders, Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 20, 130; *July* 30, 1043
*Excursion Steamers (Drunkenness), Qs.* Sir Cameron Gull, Sir W. Lawson; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *Aug* 3, 1355
*Factory Regulations (Bottling Beer), Q.* Mr. W. Allen; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 28, 829

[*cont.*

*HOME DEPARTMENT*—cont.
*Maybrick (Mrs.)*, *Qs.* Dr. Clark, Mr. T. Lough; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 31, 1265
*Merionethshire Mines Committee*, *Q.* Mr. T. Ellis; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 30, 1054
*Metropolitan Police*
*Summer Clothing*, *Q.* Sir H. Havelock-Allan; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 23, 471
*Uniform*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 31, 1245
*Nonconformist Burial Service (Shirland, near Alfreton*, *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 20, 122; *Aug* 6, 1688
*Open Quarries*, *Q.* Mr. T. E. Ellis; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 28, 823
*Parachute Accident (Cardiff)*, *Q.* Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 28, 826
*Police Supervision*, *Q.* Mr. E. H. Pickersgill; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 21, 271
*Prisoners' Aid Societies*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 20, 131
*Prison*
*Officers' Pensions*, *Q.* Mr. Luttrell; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 21, 267
*Treatment of Dr. Jameson and his Colleagues*, *Q.* Mr. E. Flower; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 31, 1269
*Warders (Convict)*, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 20, 130; *July* 30, 1043
*Quarter Sessions (London) Bill*, *Q.* Sir A. R. Scoble; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *Aug* 3, 1356
*Regent's Canal*, *Q.* Mr. Bhownaggree; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 21, 255
*Shirland Burial Service (near Alfreton)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 20, 122; *Aug* 6, 1688
*Street Collections*, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 21, 258
*Transvaal Raid*, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien, Mr. J. F. Hogan, Mr. G. Wyndham, Mr. T. M. Healy, Sir R. T. Reid; [Mr. Speaker]; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley, Sir R. Webster *July* 30, 1042
*Ulverston Burial Board*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 28, 812
*Vaccination (Royal Commission)*, *Q.* Mr. T. Bayley; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *Aug* 6, 1677

HOPKINSON, Mr. A., *Wilts, Cricklade*
Darwen Moor Provisional Order *July* 23, 471

**Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill**
*c.* 2R. Mr. J. Caldwell, 786; Mr. J. Samuel, 787; Mr. Graham Murray, 787; Dr. Clark, 787 *July* 27
Read 2° and com. *July* 27, 787
In Com. Mr. J. Caldwell, 1139, 1140; Mr. A. Asher, 1140, 1141; Sir C. Dilke, 1142; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1142 *July* 30
Considered as Amended: Mr. J. Caldwell *Aug* 1, 1326

[*cont.*

*Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill*—cont.
Read 3° and Passed with an Amendt. *Aug* 1, 1326
*l.* Returned from Commons Agreed to with an Amendt. *Aug* 4, 1418
Commons' Amendt. Considered and Agreed to *Aug* 6, 1561

HUGHES, Colonel E., *Woolwich*
Business of the House *Aug* 6, 1704

HULSE, Mr. E. H., *Salisbury*
Assize Arrangements *July* 21, 272

HUMPHREYS-OWEN, Mr. A. C., *Montgomeryshire*
Light Railways Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 1132
Locomotives on Highways Bill, *July* 30, 1111, 1121, 1122

INCHIQUIN, Lord
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1582, 1584, 1590, 1610, 1627

*Income Tax* (see CUSTOMS, EXCISE, AND INLAND REVENUE)

**Incumbents of Benefices Loans Extension Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**INDIA**
Secretary of State—Lord G. HAMILTON
Under Secretary of State—Earl of ONSLOW
*Bombay*
*Cotton Trade (Madras and)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Kenyon; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 30, 1042
*Liquor Licence*, *Q.* Mr. H. J. Wilson; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 28, 813
*Budget*, *Q.* Sir W. Wedderburn; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1701
*Calcutta (Overland Railway to)*, *Q.* Mr. J. M. Maclean; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 21, 247
*East India Accounts*, *Q.* Sir W. Wedderburn; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 30, 1046
*European Troops in*, *Q.* Major Rasch; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 30, 1029
*Jhalawar (Maharaja of)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Roberts; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 21, 251
(For Debate see JHALAWAR, MAHARAJA OF)
*Kafiristan*, *Q.* Mr. S. Smith; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 31, 1251
*Liquor Licence (Bombay)*, *Q.* Mr. H. J. Wilson; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 28, 813
*Madras*
*City Civil Court*, *Q.* Mr. W. F. Lawrence; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 30, 1029
*Cotton Trade (Bombay and)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Kenyon; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 30, 1042
*Infantry Regiments*, *Q.* Sir H. S. King; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 30, 1023
*Pasteur Institute*, *Q.* Mr. S. Smith; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *Aug* 4, 1452

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*INDIA*—cont.
*Railways*
*Calcutta (Overland)*, *Q.* Mr. J. M. Maclean; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 21, 247
*Extension of*, *Q.* Mr. R. Ascroft; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 20, 146
*Extension of (Burma)*, *Q.* Mr. R. Souttar; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 31, 1253
*Traffic Receipts*, *Q.* Mr. R. Souttar; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 31, 1252
*Reformatory Schools Act 1876*, *Q.* Mr. H. J. Wilson; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *Aug* 4, 1444

**Infant Life Protection Bill**
*l.* In Com., Earl of Denbigh, 418, 428; Lord Bishop of Winchester, 421; Earl of Kimberley, 424, 425; Marquess of Salisbury, 424, 425, 426, 428; Lord Herschell, 426; Lord Thring, 426; Lord Belper, 427 *July* 23
Re-committed to Standing Com. *July* 23, 428

**IRELAND**
Lord Lieutenant—Earl Cadogan
Chief Secretary—Mr. G. W. Balfour
Lord Chancellor—Lord Ashbourne
Attorney General—Mr. J. Atkinson
Solicitor General—Mr. W. Kenny

*Agrarian and Treason-felony Prisoners*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 28, 831
*Amalgamation of Poor Law Unions (Ireland) Bill*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 4, 1447
*Antrim County*
*Ballymena Board of Guardians*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 463
*Constabulary Station (Carnlough)*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Mr. R. T. O'Niell; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 601
*Drunkenness at Carnlough*, *Q.* Mr. R. T. O'Niell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 31, 1256
*Postal Arrangements*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 596
*Arbitration in*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1053
*Aremberg Chute Estate (Kerry County)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Roche, Mr. D. Kilbride, Mr. M. J. Flavin; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 253
*Army Food Supplies (Ireland)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Jordan, Sir H. Vincent, Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 30, 1044
*Artillery Range (Wicklow County)*, *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *Aug* 3, 1352
*Assistant Land Commissioners*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 481
*Asylum (Limerick County)*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 26
*Athlone Town Clerkship*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 28, 818
*Bailieborough Union (Cavan County)*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *Aug* 6, 1686
*Ballymena Board of Guardians (Antrim County)*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 463

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*IRELAND*—cont.
*Barracks (Military)*
*Belturbet*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *Aug* 6, 1679
*Birr*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 30, 1032
*Belfast*
*Constabulary*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 254
*Female Telegraphists*, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 6, 1683
*Landing of Live Cattle at*, *Qs.* Sir J. Kinloch, Mr. G. W. Wolff; *As.* Mr. W. Long, Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 24, 603
*Letters from*, *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 4, 1441
*Purdysburn Asylum*, *Qs.* Mr. D. Kilbride; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 466; *Aug* 3, 1347
*Workhouse*
*Death of Inmate*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 257. *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1036
*Transfers from Asylum*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 699
*Belturbet Military Barracks*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *Aug* 6, 1679
*Bessbrook (Disorderly Conduct at)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 36
*Birr Military Barracks*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 30, 1032
*Bundoran Loan Fund*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 31, 1255
*Carlow County*
*Grand Jury*, *Qs.* Mr. Engledow; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 21, 255; *July* 23, 461
*Infirmary*, *Qs.* Mr. Engledow; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 132; *July* 23, 460
*Postal Arrangements*, *Q.* Mr. Engledow; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 133
*Carriage of Letters (Irish Railways)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Parnell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 810
*Castlecomer*
*Coal Mines (Kilkenny County)*, *Q.* Mr. P. McDermott; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 260
*Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. T. B. Curran; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 809
*Cavan*
*Bailieborough Union*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1686
*Belturbet Military Barracks*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *Aug* 6, 1679
*Eviction Notices*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1677
*Labourers' Dwellings*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 695
*Leitrim Light Railway, and*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 26. *Qs.* Mr. J. Tully; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 147; *July* 27, 689
*Potato Disease*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1685

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*IRELAND*—cont.

- *Charges*
  - *Murder*
    - *Omagh Assizes*, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 23, 475. *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 31, 1256
    - *Sligo County*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 605
  - *Perjury*
    - *Cork Assizes*, *Q.* Mr. E. Crean; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 479. *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 31, 1254
    - *Kerry County*, *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. J. Roche; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 128
  - *Trespass (Newbliss Petty Sessions)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *Aug* 3, 1344
- *Clare County*
  - *Spancelhill Fair*, *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 25
  - *Tulla Union (Labourers' Cottages)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 28, 811
- *Commissioners of Irish Lights (Wrongful Dismissal)*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 271; *July* 27, 696; *July* 30, 1049
- *Constabulary*
  - *Belfast*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 254
  - *Regulations*, *Qs.* Mr. J. J. Clancy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 474; *July* 24, 610
  - *Station (Carnlough, Antrim County)*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Mr. R. T. O'Niell; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 601
- *Contracts* (see under Title CONTRACTS)
- *Cork*
  - *Assizes (Charge of Perjury)*, *Q.* Mr. E. Crean; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 479. *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 31, 1254
  - *Mill Street Union Election*, *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Atkinson *Aug* 4, 1445
  - *National School Teachers' Pension*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 149
  - *Skibbereen Magistracy*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1684
  - *Skibbereen Poor Law Union (Rate Collector)*, *Q.* Mr. E. Barry; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 679
- *County Court*
  - *Judgeship (Down)*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1035
  - *Sittings of*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 463
- *County Surveyorship*, *Q.* Mr. W. Johnston; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1689
- *Curragh Camp*, *Q.* Mr. Engledow; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 32. *Q.* Mr. Engledow; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 20, 150
- *Customs Offices (Dublin)*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 33. *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 829

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*IRELAND*—cont.

- *Deaths*
  - *Boy at Cookstown*, *Q.* Mr. P. C. Doogan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1687
  - *Inmate (Belfast Workhouse)*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 257. *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1036
- *Destruction of*
  - *Mail Van, (Great Northern of Ireland Railway)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 479
  - *National Federation Hall (Down County)*, *Qs.* Mr. D. Macaleese; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 35. *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 137
- *Disorderly Conduct at Bessbrook*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 36
- *Down County*
  - *Court Judgeship*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1035
  - *Destruction of National Federation Hall*, *Qs.* Mr. D. Macaleese; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 35. *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 137
  - *Newcastle Harbour*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 455
  - *Rifle Range*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 21, 256
  - *Sale of Drink*, *Q.* Mr. W. Johnston; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1033
- *Downpatrick (Poor Law Valuation)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 596
- *Drainage*
  - *Charges*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 473
  - *Work (Reclamation and)*, *Q* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 30
- *Drogheda Corporation Bill* (see that Title)
- *Drunkenness (Carnlough, Antrim County)*, *Q.* Mr. R. T. O'Niell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 31, 1256
- *Dublin Corporation Bill* (see that Title)
- *Dublin*
  - *Customs Offices*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 33. *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 829
  - *General Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. T. Harrington; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 120
  - *Licence Duties*, *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 29
  - *Mail Service (London and)*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 475
  - *Royal College of Science*, *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 20, 130
- *Dundalk (Income Tax)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 4, 1440; *Aug* 6, 1698
- *Dunraymond Postmaster (Monaghan County)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 132
- *Election of Poor Law Guardians*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1685
- *English and Irish Mails*, *Qs.* Mr. M. J. Flavin; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 601. *Qs.* Mr. S. Young, Mr. T. J. Condon, Mr. M. Austin *As.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 3, 1343

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*IRELAND*—cont.

*Eviction Notices (Cavan County)*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1677
*Fair Rent Applications*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 31. *Q.* Mr. E. M'Hugh; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 600. *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1037
*Fee Grants (Supplementary)*, *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach, Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 457
*Fire-arms (Incautious Use of)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 150
*Fisheries (Lough Foyle)*, *Q.* Mr. T. B. Curran; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1031

*Flax*
  *Crop (Ulster)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 3, 1346
  *Growing Districts (Ulster Landlords)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 703

*Galway County (Lough Corrib)*, *Q.* Mr. W. O'Malley; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 454
*General Post Office (Dublin)*, *Q.* Mr. T. Harrington; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 120
*Giant's Causeway*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 140
*Government Printing Contracts*, *Qs.* Mr. M. Davitt, Mr. W. J. Corbet; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1690

*Grand Jury*
  *Carlow County*, *Qs.* Mr. Engledow; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 21, 255; *July* 23, 461
  *Kilkenny County*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 30, 1035
  *Monaghan County*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 27

*Gransha Asylum (Londonderry)*, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 459
*Great Northern of Ireland Railway (Destruction of Mail Van)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 479
*Guaranteed Land Stock (Land Purchase [Ireland] Act 1891)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Morley; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 686
*Guardians (Ex-officio)*, *Q.* Mr. Engledow; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 138
*Income Tax (Dundalk)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 4, 1440; *Aug* 6, 1698
*Industrial School (Queenstown)*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 609
*Infirmary (Carlow County)*, *Qs.* Mr. Engledow; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 132; *July* 23, 460

*Irish*
  *Agrarian and Treason-felony Prisoners*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 28, 831
  *American Mails*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 34
  *College (Paris)*, *Q.* Mr. E. M'Hugh; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 3, 1345
  *Land Commission (Land Certificate)*, *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 594
  *Landed Estates*, *Qs.* Sir J. Colomb; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 263
  *Local Taxation, etc.*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 4, 1447

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*IRELAND*—cont.

*Irish*—cont.
  *Mail Service*, *Qs.* Sir T. Esmonde, Captain Donelan, Mr. J. C. Flynn, Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 597
  *Mails (New Contract)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 149
  *National Schools (Work Mistresses)*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1678
  *Railways (Carriage of Letters)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Parnell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 810
  *School (Fee Grant)*, *Q.* Mr. J. J. Clancy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 270
  *Treason-felony Prisoners*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 698. *Qs.* Mr. J. O'Connor, Mr. M. Davitt; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 24, 612; *July* 31, 1265

*Judicial Rent Schedule*, *Q.* Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 478

*Kerry County*
  *Aremberg Chute Estate*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Roche, Mr. D. Kilbride, Mr. M. J. Flavin; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 253
  *Listowel Union*, *Q.* Colonel Waring; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 477
  *Perjury (Charge of)*, *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. J. Roche; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 128

*Kilkenny County*
  *Castlecomer Coal Mines*, *Q.* Mr. Patrick McDermott; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 260
  *Grand Jury*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 30, 1035

*Kinsale (Old Head of)*
  *Postmaster*, *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 680
  *Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 826

*Labourers'*
  *Cottages (Tulla Union, Clare County)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 28, 811
  *Dwellings (Cavan County)*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 695
  *Scheme (Tipperary)*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 4, 1440

*Labourers (Ireland) Bill* (see that Title)

*Land*
  *Commissioners (Assistant)*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 481
  *Judges' Court*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 683

*Landing of Live Cattle at Belfast*, *Qs.* Sir J. Kinloch, Mr. G. W. Wolff; *As.* Mr. W. Long, Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 24, 603
*Land Law (Ireland) Bill*, *Q.* Mr. J. Morley; *A.* Mr. Speaker *July* 20, 153. *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 28, 818 (For Debate see Title of Bill)
*Land Law (Ireland) Bill (Purchase Clauses)*, *Q.* Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 470
*Land Purchase Acts (Advances)*, *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 595
*Land Purchase (Ireland) Act 1891 (Guaranteed Land Stock)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Morley; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 686

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*IRELAND*—cont.

- *Lennard Estate (Clones, Monaghan County)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1048
- *Letters*
  - *Belfast*, *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 4, 1441
  - *Carriage of (Irish Railways)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Parnell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 810
- *Licence Duties (Dublin)*, *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 29
- *Light Railways*
  - *Bill*, *Q.* Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 250
  - *Leitrim and Cavan*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 26. *Qs.* Mr. J. Tully; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 147; *July* 27, 689
- *Limerick*
  - *County Asylum*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 26
  - *Mails*, *Q.* Mr. M. Austin; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1264
  - *Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 6, 1696
- *Listowel Union (Kerry County)*, *Q.* Colonel Waring; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 477
- *Loans to Fishermen*, *Q.* Mr. P. J. Power; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 603
- *Local Taxation, etc.*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 4, 1447
- *Local Taxation (Ireland) Estate Duty Bill* (see that Title)
- *London and Dublin Night Mail Service*, *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1259
- *Londonderry (Gransha Asylum)*, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 459
- *Longford County*
  - *Royal Canal Harbour*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1053
  - *School Accommodation (Letter-Gunnell)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 3, 1353
- *Lough*
  - *Corrib*, *Q.* Mr. W. O'Malley; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 454
  - *Foyle Fisheries*, *Q.* Mr. T. B. Curran; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1031
- *Lunacy* (see under Title LUNACY)
- *Magistracy (Skibbereen)*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1684
- *Mails*
  - *American and Irish*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 34
  - *Contracts* (see under that Title)
  - *Destruction of Van (Great Northern of Ireland Railway)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 479
  - *Dublin and London*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 475. *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1259
  - *English and Irish*, *Qs.* Mr. M. J. Flavin; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 601. *Qs.* Mr. S. Young, Mr. Condon, Mr. M. Austin; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 3, 1343
  - *Limerick*, *Q.* Mr. M. Austin; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1264
  - *New Contract*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 149

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*IRELAND*—cont.

- *Mails*—cont.
  - *Service*, *Qs.* Sir T. Esmonde, Captain Donelan, Mr. J. C. Flynn, Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 597. *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 30, 1054
- *Mill Street Union Election (Cork County)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Atkinson *Aug* 4, 1445
- *Monaghan County*
  - *Drumbrackin Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1258
  - *Dunraymond Postmaster*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 132
  - *Grand Jury*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 27
  - *Lennard Estate (Clones)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1048
  - *Newbliss*
    - *Court-house (Party Demonstration)*, *Qs.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 267; *July* 27, 698
    - *Petty Sessions (Charge of Trespass)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *Aug* 3, 1344
  - *Road*
    - *Contractors*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 28, 824
    - *Repair*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G Balfour *July* 30, 1031
  - *Town Land Improvement*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 681
- *National*
  - *Education (Commissioners' Report)*, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 261
  - *Gallery of Ireland*, *Q.* Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 31, 1250
- *Newbliss Court-house (Party Demonstration)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 267; *July* 27, 698
- *Newcastle Harbour (Down County)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 455
- *Night Mail Service (London and Dublin)*, *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1259
- *Omagh Assizes (Charge of Murder)*, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 23, 475. *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 31, 1256
- *Pension*
  - *Fund (Irish Teachers)*, *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox, Mr. J. J. Clancy; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 261. *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox, Mr. W. Field, Mr. J. J. Clancy; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach, Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 456
  - *National School Teachers' (Cork County)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 149
- *Perjury (Charges of)*
  - *Cork Assizes*, *Q.* Mr. E. Crean; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 474. *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 31, 1254
  - *Kerry County*, *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. J. Roche; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 128
- *Police (Compensation to)*, *Qs.* Mr. M. Healy, Colonel Waring, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 20, 123

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*IRELAND*—cont.

- *Poor Law*
  - *Amalgamation of Unions*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 4, 1447
  - *Guardians (Election of)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1685
  - *Valuation (Downpatrick)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 596
- *Portrane Asylum*, *Q.* Mr. T. Harrington; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 685
- *Postal*
  - *Arrangements*
    - *Antrim County*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 596
    - *Carlow County*, *Q.* Mr. Engledow; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 133
  - *Facilities (Telegraphic and)*, *Qs.* Mr. W. O'Malley, Mr. Engledow, Mr. J. Tully, Mr. P. Ffrench; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 21, 247
- *Postmasters*
  - *Dunraymond (Monaghan)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 132
  - *Kinsale (Old Head of)*, *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 680
- *Post Office*
  - *Appointments*, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 459
  - *Castlecomer*, *Q.* Mr. T. B. Curran; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 809
  - *Drumbrackin (Carrickmacross, Monaghan)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1258
  - *Dublin (General) Promotions*, *Q.* Mr. T. Harrington; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 120
  - *Kinsale (Old Head of)*, *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 826
  - *Limerick*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 6, 1696
  - *Sorters*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1259
- *Potato Disease (Cavan County)*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1685
- *Printing Contracts* (see Title CONTRACTS)
- *Purdysburn Asylum (Belfast)*, *Qs.* Mr. D. Kilbride; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 466; *Aug* 3, 1347
- *Queenstown Industrial School*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 609
- *Railways (Ireland) Bill* (see that Title)
- *Rate*
  - *Collection*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 599
  - *Collector (Poor Law Union)*, *Skibbereen*, *Q.* Mr. E. Barry; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 679
- *Rent Reductions (Ulster)*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 256
- *Rents in Ireland* (see under Title IRELAND below)
- *Rifle Range (Down County)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 21, 256
- *Road*
  - *Contractors (Monaghan)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 28, 824
  - *Repair (Monaghan)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1031

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*IRELAND*—cont.

- *Royal*
  - *Canal Company*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Tuite; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 138; *July* 23, 465
  - *Canal Harbour (Longford County)*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1053
  - *College of Science (Dublin)*, *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Sir J. Gorst *July* 20, 130
  - *Irish Constabulary*
    - *Promotion*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1026
    - *Weights and Measures Act*, *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 609
- *Sale of*
  - *Drink (Down County)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Johnston; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1033
  - *Estates*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 3, 1347
- *Schools*
  - *Accommodation (Letter - Gunnell, Longford County)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 3, 1353
  - *Fee Grant*, *Q.* Mr. J. J. Clancy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 270
  - *Mistresses*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 28, 819
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3R. Mr. G. Balfour, 938, 974, 976; Mr. A. H. Smith-Barry, (*Amendt.*) 938; Colonel Saunderson, 940, 941, 945, 966; Mr. J. C. Flynn, 941; Mr. T. M. Healy. 941, 978; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 945, 949, 964, 967; Mr. J. Redmond, 947; Mr. J. A. Rentoul, 948, 949; Mr. J. Dillon, 951; Sir J. Colomb, 954; Mr. M. Davitt, 956; Mr. Arnold-Forster, 959; Sir W. Harcourt, 969, 974, 976; Mr. T. W. Russell, 975; (*Amendt. negatived*, 980) *July* 29

Read 3° and Passed; Verbal Amendts. made *July* 29, 980

*l.* 1R. Marquess of Lansdowne; Read 1ª *July* 29, 937

2R. Marquess of Lansdowne, 1146, 1188; Marquess of Londonderry, 1159, 1211, 1212; Earl of Crewe, 1174; Earl of Dunraven, 1179, 1180; Earl of Rosebery, 1180; Marquess of Salisbury, 1180, 1231; Earl of Winchilsea, 1181; Lord Monteagle, 1184; Lord Castletown, 1187, 1188; Duke of Abercorn, 1194, 1212, Viscount Midleton, 1201; Earl Spencer, 1205; Lord Ashbourne, 1210, 1211, 1212; Viscount Templetown, 1215; Earl of Belmore, 1219; Earl of Mayo, 1225; Lord Clonbrock, 1228 *July* 31

Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 31, 1231

In Com., Marquess of Lansdowne, 1563, 1571, 1576, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1584, 1585, 1589, 1591, 1598, 1600, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1608, 1627, 1634, 1642, 1645, 1650; Lord Monteagle, 1564, 1576, 1579, 1597, 1627; Earl of Winchilsea, 1565, 1576, (*Amendt.*) 1591, 1599; Viscount Templetown, (*Amendt.*) 1565, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582; Lord Oranmore and Browne, 1572, 1614, 1626; Marquess of Londonderry, 1572, 1611, 1618, 1626; Lord Macnaghten, 1574, 1575, 1584, 1599, 1600, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1606, 1613, 1627, (*Amendt.*) 1628, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1650; Lord Ashbourne, 1574, 1575, 1600, 1603, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1637, 1638; Earl of Portsmouth, 1575, 1600; Earl of Mayo, 1576, 1577, 1648; Viscount Powerscourt, 1577, 1609, 1648; Duke of Abercorn, 1577, 1598, 1643; (*Division*, 1577;) Lord Castletown, 1580, 1621, 1624, 1625, 1626; Lord Inchiquin, 1582, 1584, 1590, 1610, 1627; Viscount Midleton, 1585; Lord Ardilaun, 1585; Earl of Dunraven, 1586, 1589, 1613, 1649; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1599;) Lord Cloncurry, (*Amendt.*) 1604; Earl of Erne, 1605; Lord Clonbrock, 1607; Duke of Devonshire, 1615; Lord Emly, 1620; (*Division*, 1622); Earl of Arran, 1627, 1641; Lord Herschell, 1636, 1637; (*Division*, 1638); Viscount de Vesci, 1641, 1642; Earl of Belmore, (*Amendt.*) 1643; Earl of Rosebery, 1649; Marquess of Salisbury, 1650: [*Clause negatived*, 1650] *Aug* 6

(For Questions see Ireland)

**Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill**

*c.* Withdrawn *July* 21, 364

(For Question see Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue)

**LANSDOWNE, MARQUESS OF (Secretary of State for War)**
- Labourers (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1011
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1146, 1188; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1563, 1571, 1576, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1584, 1585, 1589, 1591, 1598 1600, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1608, 1627, 1634, 1642, 1645, 1650
- Rents in Ireland *July* 17, 22
- Yeomanry (Long Service Medal) *July* 20, 115

**Larceny Bill**
*c.* Read 2° and com. *Aug* 6, 1756

**LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE**
- *Assizes*
  - *Arrangement*, *Qs.* Lord E. Manners, Mr. E. H. Hulse, Mr. A. F. Godson, Mr. A. Strauss, Mr. W. W. Carlile, Mr. C. G. Pym, Mr. Radcliffe Cooke; *As.* Sir R. Webster *July* 21, 272
  - *Cork* (see *Charges, Perjury* below)
  - *Omagh* (see *Charges, Murder* below)
  - *Stafford*, *Q.* Mr. C. Shaw; *A.* Sir R. Webster *July* 30, 1055
- *Bundoran Loan Fund*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 31, 1255
- *Charges*
  - *Burglary (St. Helens)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 28, 825; *Aug* 3, 1352
  - *Murder*
    - *Omagh Assizes*, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 23, 475. *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 31, 1256
    - *Sligo County*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 605
  - *Perjury*
    - *Cork Assizes*, *Q.* Mr. E. Crean; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 479. *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 31, 1254
    - *Kerry County*, *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. J. Roche; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 128
  - *Trespass (Newbliss Petty Sessions)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *Aug* 3, 1344
- *Claim by Check-weighman (Wakefield)*, *Q.* Mr. B. Pickard; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 31, 1261
- *Commissioners of Irish Lights (Action for Wrongful Dismissal)*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 271; *July* 27, 696; *July* 30, 1049; *July* 31, 1260
- *Constabulary*
  - *Belfast*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 254
  - *Regulations (Ireland)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. J. Clancy; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 474; *July* 24, 610
  - *Royal Irish* (see below)
  - *Station (Carnlough, Antrim County)*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Mr. R. T. O'Neill; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 601

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*LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE*—cont.
- *Convict Prison Warders*, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 20, 130; *July* 30, 1043
- *Corrupt Commission*, *Q.* Mr. W. Hazell; *A.* Sir R. Webster *July* 31, 1267
- *County Court*
  - *Fees*, *Q.* Mr. H. H. Bemrose; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 6, 1694
  - *Ireland*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 463
  - *Judgeship (Down County)*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1035
- *Deaths*
  - *Boy at Cookstown (Ireland)*, *Q.* Mr. P. C. Doogan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1687
  - *Workman (Glasgow)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 31, 1253
- *Eviction Notices (Cavan County)*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1677
- *Exchequer Court*, *Q.* Mr. R. Cox; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 20, 121
- *Fair Rent Application (Ireland)*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1037
- *Grand Jury*
  - *Carlow County*, *Qs.* Mr. Engledow; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 21, 255; *June* 23, 461
  - *Kilkenny County*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 30, 1035
  - *Monaghan County*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Daly; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 27
- *High Sheriffs*, *Q.* Mr. T. W. Legh; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 31, 1257
- *Inland Revenue Prosecution (Highgate)*, *Q.* Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 27, 674
- *Irish*
  - *Agrarian and Treason-felony Prisoners*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 28, 831
  - *Land Commission (Land Certificate)*, *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 594
  - *Treason-felony Prisoners*, *Qs.* Mr. J. O'Connor, Mr. M. Davitt; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 24, 612. *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 698. *Qs.* Mr. J. O'Connor, Mr. M. Davitt; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 31, 1265
- *Judicial*
  - *Committee (Colonial Judge)*, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 27, 696
  - *Rent Schedule*, *Q.* Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 478
- *Judicial Trustees Bill*, *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 28, 831 (For Debate see Title of Bill)
- *Kirk Session of Laurencekirk*, *Q.* Mr. J. W. Crombie; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *Aug* 3, 1342
- *Land Judges' Court (Ireland)*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 683
- *Liverpool Court of Passage Bill* (see that Title)
- *Lunatics (Trade Debts)*, *Q.* Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Sir R. Webster *Aug* 4, 1452

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*LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE*—cont.
*Madras City Civil Court*, *Q.* Mr. W. F. Lawrence; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 30, 1029
*Magistracy (Skibbereen)*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1684
*Maybrick (Mrs.)*, *Qs.* Dr. Clark, Mr. T. Lough; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 31, 1265
*Metropolitan Police*
  *Summer Clothing*, *Q.* Sir H. Havelock-Allan; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 23, 471
  *Uniform*, *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 31, 1245
*Monaghan County (Newbliss Petty Sessions Court)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 698
*Murder Charges*
  *Omagh Assizes*, *Q.* Mr. G. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 23, 475. *Q.* Mr D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 31, 1256
  *Sligo County*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 605
*Perjury Charges*
  *Cork Assizes*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 31, 1254
  *Kerry County*, *Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. J. Roche; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 128
*Police*
  *Compensation to (Ireland)*, *Qs.* Mr. M. Healy, Colonel Waring, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 20, 123
  *Supervision*, *Q.* Mr. E. H. Pickersgill; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 21, 271
*Prisoners' Aid Societies*, *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 20, 131
*Prison*
  *Officers' Pensions*, *Q.* Mr. Luttrell; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 21, 267
  *Treatment of Dr. Jameson and his Colleagues*, *Q.* Mr. E. Flower; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 31, 1269
  *Warders (Convict)*, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 20, 130; *July* 30, 1043
*Property Escheated to Crown*, *Q.* Mr. H. Byron Reed; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 811
*Quarter Sessions (London) Bill*, *Q.* Sir A. R. Scoble; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *Aug* 3, 1356
*Royal Irish Constabulary*
  *Promotion*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1026
  *Weights and Measures Act*, *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 609
*Sale of Estates (Ireland)*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 3, 1347
*Stipendiary Magistrates (Ireland) Bill* (see that Title)
*Town*
  *Clerkships (Athlone)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 28, 818
  *Improvement (Ireland) Act 1854 (Newbridge)*, *Q.* Mr. M. J. Minch; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *July* 23, 469
[*cont.*

*LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE*—cont.
*Transvaal Raid*, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien, Mr. J. F. Hogan, Mr. G. Wyndham, Mr. T. M. Healy, Sir R. T. Reid; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley, Sir R. Webster *July* 30, 1042
*Trespass (Charge of)*, *Newbliss Petty Sessions*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. J. Atkinson *Aug* 3, 1344
*Welsh Wills (Translation)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Lewis; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 3, 1348

LAWRENCE, Mr. W. F., *Liverpool, Abercrombie*
Madras City Civil Court *July* 30, 1029
Niger Coast Protectorate *July* 30, 1030

LAWSON, MR. J. GRANT (Parliamentary Charity Commissioner) *Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk and Malton*
Christ's Hospital *July* 28, 816
Covent Garden Theatrical Fund *July* 21, 259; *July* 27, 695
Donington Education Scheme *July* 17, 39
Peap's Charity (Northamptonshire) *July* 31, 1248
St. Cross Hospital (Winchester) *July* 31, 1255

LAWSON, Sir WILFRID, Bt., *Cumberland, Cockermouth*
Excursion Steamers (Drunkenness) *Aug* 3, 1355

LEA, Sir THOMAS, Bart., *Londonderry, S.*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 22, 369; *July* 23, 563; *July* 28, 844, 876

**Leamington Corporation Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

LECKY, Mr. WILLIAM E. H., *Dublin University*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 231; *July* 28, 899

LEES, Mr. ELLIOTT, *Birkenhead*
Electric Lighting and Electric Traction *July* 30, 1055
Supply: £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1278, 1280

LEESE, Sir JOSEPH F., *Lancashire, N.E., Accrington*
Science and Art Department (Attendances) *July* 30, 1051

LEGH, Hon. T. WODEHOUSE, *Lancashire, S.W., Newton*
High Sheriffs *July* 31, 1257

LEWIS, Mr. J. HERBERT, *Flint Boroughs*
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 741, 744, 748, 750
Commissioners of Income Tax *July* 31, 1260, 1261
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1893 (Analyses) *July* 23, 483
Finance Bill, 3R. *July* 29, 981
Government Business *July* 20, 189
Land Tax Commissioners (Wales) *July* 23, 483
Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill, 2R. *Aug* 3, 1407
Supply
  £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1294
  £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1297
  £376,571 for Stationery and Printing *Aug* 5, 1551
Telegraphic Communication *July* 31, 1261
Uganda Railway Bill, In Com. *July* 30, 1094, 1097, 1098, 1105; 3R. *Aug* 1, 1318
Welsh Wills (Translation) *Aug* 3, 1348
West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1753

**Light Railways Bill**
*c.* 3R. Mr. F. A. Channing, (*Amendt.*) 1129, 1131; Mr. Ritchie, 1131; Mr. A. C. Humphreys-Owen, 1132; Dr. Clark, 1132; (*Division*, 1132); Mr. J. Caldwell, 1132; Sir C. Dilke, 1133 *July* 30
Read 3° and Passed *July* 30, 1134
*l.* Read 1ª *July* 31, 1233
2R. Earl of Dudley, 1429, 1433; Bishop of Salisbury, 1433; Lord Ashbourne, 1434; Earl of Morley, 1434 *Aug* 4
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *Aug* 4, 1438

**Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland) Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *July* 29, 937

**Liverpool Court of Passage Bill**
*l.* Read 3ª with Amendts.; Passed, and Returned to Commons *July* 20, 111
*c.* Lords' Amendts. Considered and Agreed to *July* 23, 452

**Llanelly Harbour Bill**
*c.* Read 3° and Passed with Amendts. *July* 20, 119
*l.* Returned from Commons Agreed to with Amendts.; Amendts. Considered and Agreed to *July* 21, 245

LLEWELLYN, Mr. EVAN H., *Somerset, N.*
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1114, 1115

LLOYD-GEORGE, Mr. DAVID, *Carnarvon Boroughs*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 5, 1532
Continental Mail *July* 31, 1263
Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill, 2R. *Aug* 3, 1409

[*cont.*

LLOYD-GEORGE, Mr. DAVID—*cont.*
Stannaries Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1514
Supply
  £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1292, 1295
  £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1298, 1309
Uganda Railway Bill, In Com. *July* 30, 1094, 1102, 1103, 1106

**Local Government (Aldershot and Farnborough) Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *July* 20, 242

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD**
President—Mr. H. CHAPLIN
Secretary—Mr. T. W. RUSSELL
*Agricultural Land Rating Bill*, *Qs.* Sir W. Harcourt, Dr. Clark; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1702
*Church Rate, Voluntary (East Preston Guardians, Sussex)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 20, 134
*Diphtheria (Anti-toxic Serums)*, *Q.* Mr. H. S. Samuel; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 30, 1040
*Dulwich College Toll Gate*, *Q.* Colonel Mellor; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 28, 807
*East London Water*
  *Company*, *Q.* Mr. H. S. Samuel; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 21, 262. *Q.* Mr. W. R. Bousfield; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 23, 484. *Qs.* Mr. H. S. Samuel, Mr. E. H. Pickersgill; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 27, 702. *Qs.* Mr. W. R. Bousfield, Mr. H. S. Samuel, Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, Colonel Lockwood; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 30, 1023
  *Supply*, *Q.* Mr. H. S. Samuel; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 31, 1268. *Q.* Mr. E. H. Pickersgill; [Postponement of Question] *Aug* 6, 1697
*East Preston Guardians, Sussex (Voluntary Church Rate)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 20, 134
*Hanwell Schools*, *Q.* Mr. E. Fowler; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 31, 1249
*Loans to Parish Authorities*, *Q.* Mr. Vicary Gibbs; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 27, 675
*Local Government (Aldershot and Farnborough) Bill* (see that Title)
*Local Loans (Wales)*, *Q.* Mr. Ellis Griffith; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 6, 1693
*Pollution of Rivers*, *Qs.* Lord Norton; [*Obs.* Lord Thring, Viscount Clifden;] *As.* Lord Harris *July* 24, 581
*Taxation Inquiry (Incidence of)*, *Q.* Mr. C. Harrison; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 28, 830. *Q.* Mr. W. Thorburn; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 30, 1056
*Vestry Election (St. Mary, Newington)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Bailey; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 21, 252
*Water Supply*
  *Essendon (Herts)*, *Q.* Mr. C. J. Monk; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 23, 480
  *London*, *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 28, 820. *Q.* Mr. H. S. Samuel; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 31, 1268

**Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 9) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill**
*l.* Read 1ª and Referred to the Examiners *July* 17, 7
2R. Lord Stanley of Alderley, (*Amendt.*) 796, 803; Lord Harris, 799; Viscount Cross, 802; Earl of Morley, 802; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 803) *July* 28
Read 2ª and com.; Com. to be Proposed by Com. of Selection *July* 28, 803
In Com., Amendts. Proposed by Select Com. made; Standing Com. negatived *Aug* 6, 1561

**Local Government Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill**
*l.* Read 3ª with Amendts.; Passed, and Returned to Commons *July* 23, 417
Lord Harris, (*Motion withdrawn*) *Aug* 6, 1561

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill)**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill**
*l.* Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 24, 581

**Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill**
*l.* Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 24, 581
In Com., Lord Harris *July* 28, 803
Rep. without Amendts.; Standing Com. negatived *July* 28, 804

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 18) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 19) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Government Provisional Order (No. 21) Bill**
*l.* Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 24, 581

**Local Government Provisional Order (No. 22) Bill**
*l.* Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 24, 581

**Local Government Provisional Order (No. 23) Bill**
*c.* 3R. Sir H. Vincent, 805; Mr. T. W. Russell, 806 *July* 28
Read 3° and Passed *July* 28, 806

**Local Government Provisional Order (Ports) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 109

**Local Government Provisional Order (Warrington) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Local Taxation (Ireland) Estate Duty Bill**
*c.* Mr. G. Balfour, (*Motion for leave to Intro.*) *Aug* 6, 1704
Intro. Mr. G. Balfour; Read 1° *Aug* 6, 1704

*Local Taxation Returns (England)*
Copy Pres. (*c.*) *July* 23, 452

LOCKWOOD, Colonel A., *Essex, Epping*
East London Water Company *July* 30, 1025

**Locomotives on Highways Bill**
*c.* Considered as Amended: Mr. H. Chaplin, 1109, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1117, 1118, 1120, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126; Mr. Luttrell, [*New Clause*] 1109, 1112, 1114, 1116, 1117; Captain Bethell, 1110, 1113, 1118, 1119, 1121, 1124; Mr. T. W. Russell, 1110, 1114, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1124, 1125; Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 1111, 1114, 1119; Mr. A. C. Humphreys-Owen, 1111, 1121, 1122; Sir H. Fowler, 1111, 1118; Sir W. Hart Dyke, 1111; Mr. J. L. Wharton, 1112, 1113, 1118; Sir R. B. Finlay, 1112, 1113, 1115, 1121, 1122, 1127; [*Clause Added*, 1112]; Mr. T. Lough, 1113, 1117, 1126; Mr. E. H. Llewellyn, 1114, 1115; Mr. J. P. Smith, 1114, 1122; Mr. B. L. Cohen, 1114; Sir J. Dorington, 1114, 1118; Mr. F. G. Banbury, 1114; Sir J. Fergusson, 1115; Mr. P. A. Muntz, 1115; Mr. M. J. Flavin, 1115; Mr. Bryn Roberts, 1115; Mr. F. A. Channing, 1115; Mr. J. Tully, 1118, 1120, 1121, 1125; Mr. C. B. Renshaw, 1125; Mr. J. Atkinson, 1125, 1126; Mr. J. Daly, 1125; Sir Penrose Fitzgerald, 1126; Mr. J. Samuel, 1127 *July* 30
Re-committed to Com. of Whole House *July* 30, 1127
In Com., Mr. H. Chaplin, [*New Clause*] 1127, 1128, 1129; Mr. Luttrell, 1127; Mr. T. Lough, 1128, 1129; Captain Bethell, 1128; Mr. J. Tully, 1128; (*Division*, 1128); [*Clause Added*, 1128] *July* 30
Rep. with Amendts. *July* 30, 1129
3R. Mr. J. P. Farrell, 1318; Mr. H. Chaplin, 1318; Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 1318 *Aug* 1
Read 3° and Passed with Amendts. *Aug* 1, 1318
*l.* Returned from Commons Agreed to with Amendts. *Aug* 4, 1418

**Locomotives on Highways [Excise Duty] Bill**
*c.* In Com. Mr. T. M. Healy, 784; Mr. H. Chaplin, 784, 785; Mr. J. Samuel, 784; Mr. T. Lough, 785; Mr. J. Daly, 785 *July* 27
Reso. Rep. and Agreed to *July* 29, 986

**Loder, Mr. Gerald W. E.**, *Brighton*
Government Offices *July* 31, 1258

**Logan, Mr. J. W.**, *Leicester, Harborough*
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 729

**London and North Western Railway Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**London Brighton and South Coast Railway Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Londonderry Improvement Bill**
*l.* Read $2^{a}$ and com. *July* 17, 7
Rep. without Amendt. *July* 28, 789
Read $3^{a}$ with Amendts.; Passed, and Returned to Commons *Aug* 4, 1417

**Londonderry, Marquess of**
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1159, 1211, 1212; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1572, 1611, 1618, 1626
Working Men's Dwellings Bill *Aug* 4, 1419

**London, Lord Bishop of**
London University Commission Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 1001, 1004, 1005, 1008

**London Sea Water Supply Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**London University Commission Bill**
*l.* 2R. Duke of Devonshire, 429; Lord Herschell, 433; Earl Cowper, 438; Lord Playfair, 439; Lord Reay, 444; Lord Kelvin, 449; Earl of Kimberley, 450 *July* 23
Read $2^{a}$ and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 23, 451
In Com., Rep. without Amendt.; Standing Com. negatived *July* 27, 673
3R. Duke of Devonshire 1000, 1001, 1002, 1008; Bishop of London, (*Amendt.*) 1001, 1004, 1005, 1008; Lord Herschell, 1005; Bishop of Salisbury, 1007; Lord Playfair, 1007; (*Amendt. negatived*, 1008): Lord Halsbury, 1008; Archbishop of Canterbury, 1008 *July* 30
3R. Duke of Devonshire *July* 31, 1231, 1232
Read $3^{a}$; Passed, and Sent to Commons *July* 31, 1232
*c.* Read 1° *Aug* 4, 1439

**Long, Right Hon. Walter H.** (President of the Board of Agriculture), *Liverpool, West Derby*
Cattle
  Foreign (Slaughter of) United States and Argentina *July* 24, 607
  Live (Landing at Belfast) *July* 24, 603
Dairy Herds (Victoria) *July* 23, 468
Darwen Moor Provisional Order *July* 23, 472
Dog Muzzling *July* 23, 482
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act (1893) (Analyses) *July* 23, 484
Pleuro-Pneumonia *July* 24, 608

**Lough, Mr. T.**, *Islington, W.*
Finance Bill, 3R. *July* 29, 985
Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 28, 839
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1113, 1117, 1126; In Com. *July* 30, 1128, 1129
Locomotives on Highways [Excise Duty], In Com. *July* 27, 785
Maybrick (Mrs.) *July* 31, 1265
Naval Reserve Bill, In Com. *July* 27, 786
Supply
  £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1270, 1274, 1275, 1281
  £376,571 for Stationery and Printing *Aug* 5, 1552
Truck Bill *July* 30, 1083, 1092

**LOWTHER, Mr. J. W.** (Chairman of Committees of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker), *Cumberland, Penrith*

Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 6, 1655

*(Rulings as Chairman of Committees)*

*Land Law (Ireland) Bill*

The Chairman said, the position in which the Committee then stood was that they were resuming the Debate which was interrupted by the ordinary Rule last Thursday; and, therefore, he put the question that day that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill. But, as the right hon. Gentleman had stated, he pointed out last Thursday that the position would be regularised if the Leader of the House would withdraw the Motion which he then made, and then the clause would come up for consideration. When that point was reached the Motion of the Leader of the House, which stood first on the separate Paper, would come on in due course, and he could then deal with any subsequent point of order which the right hon. Gentleman desired to raise *July* 20, 194

The Chairman said, on the first point submitted by the right hon. Gentleman, he had to say that the form of words specially laid down in the new Order was: "That a certain clause or certain clauses shall cease to form part of the Bill;" and the ordinary form of words after any Amendments had been disposed of was: "That the clause stand part of the Bill." He confessed that he did not see himself any distinction of effect between those two forms of words. The ordinary practice of the House, when it desired that a clause be withdrawn, was that it was negatived. That was sometimes done in order that a similar clause might afterwards be brought up as a new clause. It was by no means a new form of procedure. Sometimes it had been discovered that an Amendment, which should have been inserted in an earlier part of a clause had not been inserted—that the clause did not carry out the intention of the Committee. Thereupon the clause was negatived in order that a corrected clause might be re-introduced as a new clause. He did not see that he could draw any distinction between the two forms of words to which he had referred. In those matters it appeared to him that he ought to consider what was the intention of the House in negativing the clause. If a Committee negatived a clause because it desired to deal with it in an amended shape, as a new clause, he thought it would be in order to consider such revised clause when it came up as a new clause. If, again, it should be the intention of the Committee to reject a clause because it did not approve the principle of the clause, then it would not be in order to re-introduce a clause to the same effect at a later period. With

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regard to the other point raised by the right hon. Gentleman, he did not read the Rule in the same way that the right hon. Gentleman did. He read the Sessional Order in this way: When a Member in charge of a Bill in Committee desired to withdraw from a Bill any clause, he might, after two days' previous notice, move, either at the commencement of Public Business at any sitting before such clause was reached, to leave out such clause, or he might make the Motion when such clause came on for consideration in Committee. There were two opportunities afforded an hon. Member after he had given two days' notice to deal with the clause or clauses—the first was at the commencement of Public Business, that was to say, after the termination of Questions; the hon. Member might then move that such clause cease to form part of the Bill, or he might make the same Motion in Committee when such clause, or the first of such clauses, came on for consideration. That was the way he read the Rule, and upon that reading he should hold that if the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury moved the Motion which stood in his name it would be in order for him to do so *July* 20, 195

The Chairman said, the word "consideration" did frequently bear the interpretation suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, but it often bore another meaning. In the Standing Order referring to the Closure, for instance, the words were—"if a clause be then under consideration;" those obviously applied to the Committee stage, and not to the Report stage only. He had considered the point suggested by the right hon. Gentleman *July* 20, 196

The Chairman said, he did not think that when the House passed that Order it was intended that the details of clauses should be gone into at any great length. On the other hand, it was open to hon. Members to refer to the clauses which were proposed to be postponed in order to state the reasons why they should desire them to be proceeded with in due order; but it would not be in order to go into detail on the various sub-sections *July* 20, 203

The Chairman said, as he understood the meaning of the hon. Gentleman's Amendment, it was out of order. The Amendment proposed to make a charge upon the Treasury. Supposing the rate of interest were reduced, and failure were made paying the annuity, the Treasury would lose by the difference between the two rates. If that were so, the fund would be diminished to that extent, and the State would be liable to make good the difference *July* 21, 353.

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LOWTHER, Mr. J. W.—*cont.*

*(Rulings as Chairman of Committees)*—cont.

*Land Law (Ireland) Bill*—cont.

The Chairman said, if it were a fact that the Amendment would throw the liability on the Treasury, it could not, of course, be accepted without the consent of the Crown. He therefore ruled it out of order *July* 21, 355

*Supply: £616,077 for National Education in Ireland*

The Chairman said, the Rule was, that, after a reduction had been moved upon an item, the Committee could not go back to a previous item. It was open to the Committee to discuss the whole Vote, but the hon. Member would have to confine himself to dealing with the matter in purely general terms, and not discuss items *July* 24, 638

The Chairman said, it was the rule of the House which bound him as it did the hon. Member. When a question had been proposed for omitting or reducing any item, no Motion could be made or Debate allowed upon any preceding item. He might say, as an illustration, that he allowed the discussion just then upon the Celtic language on the ground that it was not referred to in any previous item. It was a matter of general interest in connection with the Estimate, but he stopped the hon. Member as soon as he came to the question of teachers' residences, because for that there was a special sum down in a special item *July* 24, 638

*Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill*

The Chairman said, he had great doubts then whether the Amendment was in order, not on the point which had been already raised, but on another point. The Committee had already decided that that clause was to come into operation on the 15th day of May next after the passing of the Act, and during the continuance of the Act certain things were to happen. The effect of the Amendment would be to limit what the Committee had already decided. There was no proof that existing leases would continue for five years during the whole of the continuance of the Act. Indeed, some existing leases might only run for six months. The Amendment was therefore out of order *Aug* 3, 1383

The Chairman said, the question was involved in some difficulty, especially to one who was not intimately acquainted with the Scottish system of valuation and assessment, but first he must say it did not seem to arise there. It was a question that, perhaps, would arise upon the 4th Clause, when it came to be decided how the money was to be distributed. It also appeared to him, as far as he had been able to understand it, that the effect of the Amendment proposed by the Lord Advocate would be this—that, whereas in classified parishes before the Bill came into operation, there was a deficit, and that deficit had to be filled [*cont.*

LOWTHER, Mr. J. W.—*cont.*

*(Rulings as Chairman of Committees)*—cont.

*Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill*—cont.

up by other ratepayers, under the Amendment, if it were inserted and the Bill passed, that deficit would not be filled up by other ratepayers, but by the State; therefore, in so far, the holders of agricultural land would be benefited *Aug* 4, 1468

The Amendment did not alter the Bill. The Amendment could not be more out of order than the Bill, and whether the Bill itself was out of order was not for him to decide. That was an objection to be taken on or before the Second Reading. The Amendment did not go beyond the provisions of the Bill, and therefore the Amendment was in order *Aug* 4, 1468

The hon. Member had raised the same point a few hours ago, on which he gave a ruling to the best of his ability. It was true that incidentally certain occupiers of land and heritages, non-agricultural, would be relieved, but eventually the relief would go to holders of agricultural land and heritages. The Bill, with the Amendment then inserted, simply made certain that the land would be valued at the lower rate in future. If they were correct in that view there was nothing out of order in it. In those matters they were not guided solely by the title of the Bill, but had to consider the general scope and intent of the Measure. Strictly there was no appeal from his decision, but if the hon. Member was not satisfied with it there would be another opportunity for him to raise the point of order *Aug* 4, 1507

The Chairman said, the Amendment was quite in order. The effect of it would be, of course, to decrease the amount available for the relief of agricultural rates by the sum by which the amount provided for the congested districts was increased. The hon. Member would observe that the subsection dealing with the matter of the congested districts came second, and was, so to speak, a second charge on the funds available. The hon. Member was entitled to move to increase the amount, but of course the amount available for the relief of the rates would be diminished *Aug* 5, 1538

*Miscellaneous Rulings*

*July* 17, 41, 44, 60, 62, 63, 67, 68, 72; *July* 20, 194, 197, 212, 214, 230; *July* 21, 298, 300, 309, 311, 354, 355, 357; *July* 22, 377, 388, 396, 397; *July* 23, 508, 534, 564, 569, 574; *July* 24, 639, 640; *July* 30, 1105; *Aug* 1, 1324, 1328; *Aug* 3, 1378, 1381, 1382, 1397, 1411; *Aug* 4, 1469, 1474, 1503, 1504; *Aug* 5, 1550

LOWTHER, Right Hon. JAMES, *Kent, Isle of Thanet*

Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 6, 1660, 1672
Fisheries Act Amendment Bill *July* 21, 265
Government Business *July* 20, 179, 191
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 296

**Lubbock, Right Hon. Sir John, Bart.,** *London University*
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 729
Government Business *July* 20, 182

*Lunacy*
Copy of Fiftieth Report of the Commissioners to the Lord Chancellor laid upon the Table (*c.*) *July* 17, 25
*Asylums*
*Gransha (Londonderry)*, *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 459
*Ireland*, *Qs.* Mr. M. Healy, Mr. J. J. Clancy, Mr. Engledow; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 125
*Limerick County*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell: *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 17, 26
*Portrane*, *Q.* Mr. T. Harrington; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 27, 685
*Purdysburn (Belfast)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 466. *Q.* Mr. D. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 3, 1347
*Trade Debts (Lunatics)*, *Q.* Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Sir R. Webster *Aug* 4, 1452

**Luttrell, Mr. H. C. Fownes,** *Devonshire, Tavistock*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1487; *Aug* 6, 1724
Business of the House *July* 24, 611, 612
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1109, 1112, 1114, 1116, 1117; In Com. *July* 30, 1127
Matabeleland *July* 21, 266; *July* 23, 455
Prison Officers' Pensions *July* 21, 267
West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1751

**Macaleese, Mr. D.,** *Monaghan, N.*
Charges
Murder (Omagh) *July* 31, 1256
Trespass (Newbliss Petty Sessions) *Aug* 3, 1344
Constabulary
Belfast *July* 21, 254
Royal Irish *July* 30, 1026
Destruction of
Mail Van (Great Northern of Ireland Railway) *July* 23, 479
National Hall (Down) *July* 17, 35, 36
Disorderly Conduct at Bessbrook *July* 17, 36
Fire-arms, Incautious Use of (Ireland) *July* 20, 150
Monaghan County
Dunraymond Postmaster *July* 20, 132
Lennard Estate (Clones) *July* 30, 1048
Road Repair *July* 30, 1031
Newbliss
Charge of Trespass *Aug* 3, 1344
Court-house (Party Demonstration) *July* 21, 267
Petty Sessions Court *July* 27, 698
Schoolmistresses (Ireland) *July* 28, 819
Supply: £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 78

**McArthur, Mr. W. A.,** *Cornwall, St. Austell*
Stannaries Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1515

**MACARTNEY, Mr. W. G. ELLISON** (Secretary to the Admiralty), *Antrim, S.*
Industrial Schools (Boys for Navy) *July* 27, 697
Naval Reserve Bill, In Com. *July* 27, 786
Naval Reserve Vessel (Kirkwall) *July* 27, 703

**McCalmont, General Hugh,** *Antrim, N.*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 571; *July* 28, 844
Nile Expedition *July* 28, 823

**McCartan, Mr. M.,** *Down, S.*
Antrim
Ballymena Board of Guardians *July* 23, 463
Constabulary Station (Carnlough) *July* 24, 601
Postal Arrangements *July* 24, 596
Army Pension (Hugh Murray) *July* 24, 594
Belfast Workhouse
Death of Inmate *July* 21, 257, 258
Transfers from Asylum *July* 27, 699
Dairy Herds (Victoria) *July* 23, 467
Dublin and London Mail Service *July* 23, 475
Fair Rent Applications (Ireland) *July* 17, 31, 32
Fire at National Federation Hall (Sheepbridge) *July* 20, 137
Giant's Causeway *July* 20, 140
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 219; *July* 21, 327; *July* 23, 512, 514, 527, 549, 560, 563
Newcastle Harbour (Down County) *July* 23, 455
Poor Law Valuation (Downpatrick) *July* 24, 596
Rent Reductions (Ulster) *July* 21, 256, 257
Rifle Range (Down County) *July* 21, 256
Ulster Landlords (Flax-growing Districts) *July* 27, 703

**McDermott, Mr. Patrick,** *Kilkenny, N.*
Castlecomer Coal Mines (Kilkenny) *July* 21, 260

**M'Hugh, Mr. Edward,** *Armagh, S.*
Fair Rent Applications (Ireland) *July* 24, 600
Irish College (Paris) *Aug* 3, 1345

**McIver, Sir Lewis, Bart.,** *Edinburgh, W.*
Science and Art Department (South Kensington) *July* 27, 684

**McKenna, Mr. R.,** *Monmouthshire, N.*
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 740, 746, 755
Truck Bill *July* 27, 779, 780; *July* 30, 1077, 1083, 1084, 1086, 1087

**Maclean, Mr. James M.,** *Cardiff*
British South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1069
Business of the House *Aug* 4, 1454
Overland Railway to Calcutta *July* 21, 247
Prisoners at Pretoria *Aug* 4, 1447, 1448
Rhodesia Rebellion *Aug* 4, 1449

McLeod, Mr. J., *Sutherland*
- Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1371, 1376, 1381, 1386, 1390, 1395, 1399, 1403, 1406; *Aug* 4, 1479, 1485, 1489, 1495; *Aug* 5, 1523, 1524, 1528, 1536, 1538, 1540, 1542, 1545; *Aug* 6, 1709, 1718, 1721, 1725, 1728, 1737, 1740, 1750
- Illegal Trawling (Scotch Waters) *Aug* 6, 1695
- Supply
  - £24,200 for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications) *Aug* 6, 1754
  - £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1295
  - £376,571 for Stationery and Printing *Aug* 5, 1552
- West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1753

Macnaghten, Lord
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1574, 1575, 1584, 1599, 1600, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1606, 1613, 1627, 1628, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1650

MacNeill, Mr. J. G. Swift, *Donegal, S.*
- British South Africa Company *July* 21, 263
- Customs Office (Dublin) *July* 17, 34
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 303, 337, 349
- Supply
  - £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 43, 44, 45, 64
  - £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 24, 640, 641
  - £2,450 for Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 24, 653, 655

Manners, Lord Edward, *Leicestershire, Melton*
- Assize Arrangements *July* 21, 272

*Marine Engineers*
- Return Pres (*c.*) *July* 27, 673

Massey-Mainwaring, Hon. W. F. B., *Finsbury, Central*
- Holyrood Palace *July* 17, 28

**Matlock Bath Gas Bill**
- Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

Mayo, Earl of
- Labourers (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1012; In Com. *Aug* 4, 1422, 1424
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1225; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1576, 1577, 1648
- Rents in Ireland *July* 17, 21

Meath, Earl of
- City and South London Railway Bill, 3R. *Aug* 6, 1557

Mellor, Colonel J. J., *Lancashire, S.E., Radcliffe-cum-Farnworth*
- Dulwich College Toll Gate *July* 28, 807

MERCHANT SHIPPING
- *Arrest of British Seamen*, *Q.* Mr. W. S. Robson; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 17, 30
- "*Drummond Castle*," *Wreck of*, *Q.* Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 481. *Q.* Mr. H. C. Stephens; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1046
- *Excursion Steamers*
  - *Bristol Channel Q.* Sir Cameron Gull; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 685
  - *Drunkenness*, *Qs.* Sir Cameron Gull, Sir W. Lawson; *As.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *Aug* 3, 1355
- *Fisheries Acts Amendment Bill*, *Qs.* Mr. C. H. Wilson, Captain Pirie, Mr. T. R. Buchanan, Mr. J. Lowther; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 264
- *Fisheries*
  - *Lough Foyle*, *Q.* Mr. T. B. Curran; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 30, 1031
  - *North Sea*, *Q.* Mr. T. R. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *Aug* 6, 1698
- *Foreign Vessels in British Ports*, *Q.* Mr. C. W. Cayzer; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 250
- *Herrings at St. Petersburg*, *Q.* Mr. J. W. Crombie; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 20, 134
- *Illegal Trawling (Scotch Waters)*, *Q.* Mr. J. McLeod; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *Aug* 6, 1695
- *Irish Lights Commissioners (Wrongful Dismissal)*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 271; *July* 27, 696; *July* 30, 1049
- *Lighthouse Illuminants*, *Q.* Mr. H. C. Plunkett; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 24, 608
- *Llanelly Harbour Bill* (see that Title)
- *Loans to Fishermen (Ireland)*, *Q.* Mr. P. J. Power; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 603
- *Mercantile Marine (Examination of Masters and Mates)*, *Q.* Sir E. T. Gourley; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 6, 1680
- "*Moresby*," *Wreck of*, *Q.* Mr. J. J. Shee; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 465
- *Newcastle Harbour (Down County)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 455
- *Orkney and Zetland Small Piers and Harbours Bill* (see that Title)
- *Preservation of Life and Property at Sea*, *Q.* Mr. Alfred Thomas; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 24, 606
- *Rule of the Road at Sea* (see that Title)
- *Seamen*
  - *British (Arrest of)*, *Q.* Mr. W. S. Robson; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 17, 30
  - *Supply of*, *Q.* Colonel Denny; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 470
  - *Wages (Transmission of)*, *Qs.* Sir E. T. Gourley, Colonel Denny, Mr. J. H. Wilson; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 6, 1681
- *Shipowners' Liability (European States)*, *Q.* Sir E. S. Hill; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 246
- *Wrecks*
  - "*Drummond Castle*," *Q.* Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 481. *Q.* Mr. H. C. Stephens; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1046
  - "*Moresby*," *Q.* Mr. J. J. Shee; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 465

**METROPOLIS**

*Chelsea (St. Peter's Free School)*, *Q.* Mr. J. C. Williams; *A.* Sir J. Gorst *Aug* 3, 1351
*Christ's Hospital*, *Qs.* Captain Norton, Mr. J. H. Johnstone; *As.* Mr. Grant Lawson *July* 28, 815
*Covent Garden Theatrical Fund*, *Qs.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *As.* Mr. Grant Lawson *July* 21, 259; *July* 27, 695
*Drowning Cases (River Lea)*, *Q.* Mr. L. R. Holland; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 4, 1441
*Dulwich College (Toll Gate)*, *Q.* Col. Mellor; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 28, 807
*East London Water*
  *Company*, *Q.* Mr. H. S. Samuel; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 21, 262. *Q.* Mr. W. R. Bousfield; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 23, 484. *Qs.* Mr. H. S. Samuel, Mr. E. H. Pickersgill; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 27, 702. *Qs.* Mr. W. R. Bousfield, Mr. H. S. Samuel, Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, Colonel Lockwood; *As.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 30, 1023
  *Supply*, *Q.* Mr. H. S. Samuel; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 31, 1268. *Q.* Mr. E. H. Pickersgill [Postponement of Question] *Aug* 6, 1697
*Government Offices*, *Q.* Mr. G. W. E. Loder; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 31, 1258
*Greenwich Park*, *Q.* Lord Hugh Cecil; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 31, 1246
*House of Commons*
  *Lobby Mosaics*, *Q.* Dr. Farquharson; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *Aug* 3, 1352
  *Telegraphic Communication*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Lewis; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 31, 1261
*Hyde Park (Rotten Row)*, *Qs.* Mr. Gibson Bowles, Colonel Wyndham Murray; *As.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 30, 1022
*Inland Revenue Prosecution (Highgate)*, *Q.* Mr. G. C. T. Bartley; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 27, 674
*London University Commission Bill* (see that Title)
*Quarter Sessions (London) Bill*, *Q.* Sir A. R. Scoble; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *Aug* 3, 1356
*Regent's Park*, *Q.* Mr. Bhownaggree; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 21, 255
*River Lea (Drowning Cases)*, *Q.* Mr. L. R. Holland; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 4, 1441
*Smoking Accommodation (Lords and Commons)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Aird, Mr. Gibson Bowles; *As.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 30, 1045
*South Kensington (Science and Art Department)*, *Q.* Sir L. McIver; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 684
*Street Collections*, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Hogan; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 21, 258
*Vestry Election (St. Mary, Newington)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Bailey; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 21, 252
*Water Supply*, *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. H. Chaplin *July* 28, 820

**Metropolitan District Railway Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Metropolitan Railway Bill**
*l.* 3R. Earl of Denbigh, (*Amendt.*) 994, 999; Earl of Dudley, 996; Earl of Belmore, 997; Lord Monkswell, 998; Earl of Morley, 998; Lord Connemara, 999; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1000) *July* 30
  Read 3ª; Passed, and Returned to Commons *July* 30, 1000

**Midleton, Viscount**
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1201; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1585

**Mildmay, Mr. Francis B.,** *Devonshire, Totnes*
  School Treats (Hired Wagons) *Aug* 4, 1449

**Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill**
*c.* 2R. Debate Resumed: Mr. J. H. Lewis, 1407; Mr. J. H. Dalziel, (*Motion for Adj.*) 1408, 1410; Mr. J. P. Farrell, 1409; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1409, (*Motion*) 1409; Mr. D. Lloyd-George, 1409; Dr. Tanner, 1409; (*Divisions*, 1409, 1410); [Mr. Speaker, 1410] *Aug* 3
  Read 2° and com. *Aug* 3, 1410

**Military Lands Provisional Orders Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Military Manœuvres Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *Aug* 3, 1415

**Military Works (Money) Bill**
*c.* In Com., Debate Resumed: Dr. Tanner, 237 Mr. Brodrick, 238; Mr. J. Dillon, 238, 239, 240; Mr. T. M. Healy, 239; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 239, 240; Mr. S. T. Evans, 240 *July* 20
  Order for Com. Read and Discharged *July* 30, 1144

**Milward, Colonel Victor,** *Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon*
  Finance Bill, 3R. *July* 29, 984

**Minch, Mr. M. J.,** *Kildare, S.*
  Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act (1854) (Newbridge) *July* 23, 469

**MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS**
  *Bakehouses*, *Q.* Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 27, 692
  *Corrupt Commission*, *Q.* Mr. W. Hazell; *A.* Sir R. Webster *July* 31, 1267
  *Darwen Moor (Provisional Order)*, *Q.* Mr. A. Hopkinson; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 23, 471
  *Dog Muzzling*, *Q.* Mr. H. C. Richards; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July* 23, 482
  *Electric Lighting and Electric Traction*, *Q.* Mr. E. Lees; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1055
  *Emigrants' Information Office*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Rankin, Mr. J. F. Hogan; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 27, 682

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*MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS*—cont.
  *Enlistment*, *Q.* Mr. G. Kemp; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 23, 472
  *Index to Acts of Parliament*, *Q.* Mr. J. Brigg; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 27, 689
  *Irish College (Paris)*, *Q.* Mr. E. M'Hugh; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 3, 1345
  *Land Purchase Acts (Advances)* *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 24, 595
  *Loans to Parish Authorities*, *Q.* Mr. Vicary Gibbs; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 27, 675
  *Local Loan Stock*, *Q.* Mr. J. J. Shee; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 24, 609
  *Metric System*, *Q.* Sir Stafford Northcote; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 17, 25
  *Pollution of Rivers*, *Qs.* Lord Norton; [*Obs.* Lord Thring, Viscount Clifden;] *As.* Lord Harris *July* 24, 581
  *Property Escheated to Crown*, *Q.* Mr. H. Byron Reed; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 811
  *Queen's Reign*, *Q.* Lord Braye; *A.* Marquess of Salisbury *July* 27, 669. *Q.* Mr. W. J. Galloway; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1701
  *Royal Commission on Financial Relations*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 31, 1263
  *Savings Bank Profit and Loss*, *Q.* Mr. T. Burt; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *Aug* 3, 1350

**Monk**, Mr. C. J., *Gloucester*
  Crete *July* 20, 136
  Water Supply (Essendon, Herts) *July* 23, 480

**Monkswell**, Lord
  Metropolitan Railway Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 998

**Monteagle**, Lord
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1184; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1564, 1576, 1579, 1597, 1627

**Morgan**, Mr. W. P., *Merthyr Tydvil*
  Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 742, 746, 754
  Supply
    £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1293
    £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1309

**Morgan**, Right Hon. Sir G. Osborne, Bart., *Denbighshire, E.*
  Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 737, 748, 750

**MORLEY**, Earl of (Chairman of Committees [H.L.])
  City and South London Railway Bill, 3R. *Aug* 6, 1559, 1561
  Drogheda Corporation Bill *Aug* 4, 1417
  Light Railways Bill, 2R. *Aug* 4, 1434
  Metropolitan Railway Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 998
  Private Bills *July* 28, 789
  Provisional Order Bills *July* 24, 581; *July* 28, 802

**Morley**, Right Hon. John, *Montrose Burghs*
  Business of the House *Aug* 4, 1453, 1454
  Guaranteed Land Stock (Land Purchase) (Ireland) Act (1891) *July* 27, 686, 687
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 20, 153; In Com. *July* 20, 194, 195, 196, 197, 235; *July* 21, 304, 343, 345, 347, 348, 355, 356; *July* 22, 394; *July* 23, 504, 505, 519, 541, 542, 547
  Venezuela *July* 27, 687

**Morrison**, Mr. W., *Yrok, W R., Skipton*
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 569

**Morton**, Mr. E. J. C., *Devonport*
  Court-martial (2nd Royal Berkshire Regiment) *July* 20, 141; *Aug* 3, 1347
  Cretan Distress Fund *July* 17, 37, 38
  Shipwrights (Royal Navy) *July* 28, 826
  Supply: £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1283, 1288

**Mundella**, Right Hon. A. J., *Sheffield, Brightside*
  Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 729

**Muntz**, Mr. P. A., *Warwick, Tamworth*
  Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1115

**Murnaghan**, Mr. G., *Tyrone, Mid*
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 525; *July* 28, 851, 935
  National School Houses (Ireland) *July* 27, 690
  Omagh Assizes (Charge of Murder) *July* 23, 475
  Supply
    £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 62, 63
    £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 29, 989

**Murray**, Colonel C. Wyndham, *Bath*
  Hyde Park (Rotten Row) *July* 30, 1022

**MURRAY**, Mr. A. GRAHAM (Lord Advocate), *Buteshire*
  Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1359, 1361, 1362, 1364, 1372, 1374, 1378, 1382, 1385, 1387, 1388, 1390, 1395, 1400, 1404, 1406; *Aug* 4, 1455, 1456, 1461, 1462, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1474, 1475, 1477, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1483, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1496, 1508, 1509, 1510; *Aug* 5, 1519, 1521, 1526, 1527, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1546, 1549; *Aug* 6, 1712, 1717, 1719, 1722, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1731, 1732, 1736, 1741
  Dunbar (Renewal of Licence) *July* 27, 685
  Exchequer Court *July* 20, 121
  Fee Grant, Scotland (Supplementary) *July* 27, 697; *July* 28, 822, 823
  Glasgow
    Death of a Workman *July* 31, 1253
    Meat Market *July* 31, 1246

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MURRAY, Mr. A. GRAHAM—*cont.*
  Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 27, 787
  Illegal Trawling (Scotch Waters) *Aug* 6, 1695
  Land Tax *July* 20, 145
  Laurencekirk (Kirk Session of) *Aug* 3, 1342
  North Sea Fisheries *Aug* 6, 1698
  Public Health (Scotland) Bill *Aug* 4, 1450
  Supply: £24,200 for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications) *Aug* 6, 1755

MYERS, Mr. W. H., *Winchester*
  St. Cross Hospital, Winchester *July* 31, 1255

*Naval Prize Money*
  Account Pres. (*c.*) *July* 28, 805

**Naval Reserve Bill**
*c.* In Com., Mr. T. Lough, 786; Mr. Macartney, 786; Rep. without Amendt., 786 *July* 27
  Read 3° and Passed *July* 27, 786
*l.* Read 1ª *July* 28, 805
  2R. Lord Churchill *Aug* 4, 1438
  Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *Aug* 4, 1439
  In Com., Rep. without Amendt.; Standing Com. negatived *Aug* 6, 1651

**NAVY**
  First Lord—Mr. G. J. GOSCHEN
  Secretary—Mr. W. G. E. MACARTNEY
  Civil Lord—Mr. J. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN
  *Boatswains*, *Q.* Mr. H. E. Kearley; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 28, 814
  *H.M.S.*
    "*Blake*" *(Boiler Explosion)*, *Q.* Mr. T. C. T. Warner; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *Aug* 4, 1442. *Q.* Mr. J. F. Flannery; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *Aug* 6, 1688
    "*Magpie*," *Q.* Mr. H. E. Kearley; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 28, 814
  *Industrial Schools (Boys for Navy)*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Macartney *July* 27, 697
  *Kirkwall (Naval Reserve Vessel)*, *Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Macartney *July* 27, 702
  *Naval*
    *Manœuvres*, *Q.* Mr. J. Aird; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 20, 141
    *Reserve*
      *Sailors and Marines*, *Q.* Mr. R. G. Webster; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 23, 472
      *Sub-Lieutenants*, *Q.* Mr. T. C. T. Warner; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *Aug* 4, 1442
      *Vessel (Kirkwall)*, *Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Macartney *July* 27, 702
  *Naval Reserve Bill* (see that Title)
  *Queen's Harbour Master for Hamoaze*, *Q.* Mr. R. Ascroft: *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *Aug* 6, 1692
  *Shipwrights*, *Q.* Mr. E. J. C. Morton; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 28, 826
  *Torpedo Boats (Volunteer Crews)*, *Q.* Mr. Arnold-Forster; *A.* Mr. G. J. Goschen *July* 20, 135

**Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway Bill**
*c.* Rep. without Amendt. *July* 23, 453

**Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

NICOL, Mr. DONALD N., *Argyllshire*
  Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1474

*Norfolk Island (Government of)*
  Earl of Belmore, (*Motion*) 1019, 1020; Earl of Selborne, 1020; (*Motion withdrawn*, 1020) *July* 30

**North British Railway Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**North Cornwall Railway Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

NORTHCOTE, Hon. Sir STAFFORD, Bart., *Exeter*
  Metric System *July* 17, 25

**North Eastern Railway Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**North Wales Counties Lunatic Asylum (Water) Bill**
  Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

NORTON, Captain C. W., *Newington, W.*
  Christ's Hospital *July* 28, 815
  Customs (Statistical Office) *July* 21, 269; *July* 28, 810
  Education Department (Temporary Typewriting Clerk) *July* 21, 268
  Maharaja of Jhalawar *July* 21, 292
  Ordnance Factories Vote *July* 21, 274; *July* 23, 485

NORTON, Lord
  Pollution of Rivers *July* 24, 581, 586

O'BRIEN, Mr. PATRICK, *Kilkenny*
  Convict Prison Warders *July* 20, 130; *July* 30, 1043
  County Court Judgeship (Down County) *July* 30, 1035
  Female Telegraphists (Belfast) *Aug* 6, 1683, 1684
  Grand Jury (Kilkenny) *July* 30, 1035
  Limerick Post Office *Aug* 6, 1696
  Skibbereen Magistracy *Aug* 6, 1684
  Transvaal Raid *July* 30, 1042

O'CONNOR, Mr. ARTHUR, *Donegal, E.*
  Business of the House *Aug* 6, 1703
  Supply: £616,077 for National Education in Ireland *July* 17, 99; *July* 24, 631, 634

O'CONNOR, Mr. J., *Wicklow, W.*
Artillery Range (Wicklow County) *Aug* 3, 1352
Charge of Burglary (St. Helens) *July* 28, 825; *Aug* 3, 1352
Irish Treason-felony Prisoners *July* 24, 612; *July* 31, 1265
Land Law Ireland Bill, In. Com. *July* 23, 579
Railway Outrages *July* 21, 269
Royal Irish Constabulary (Weights and Measures Act) *July* 24, 609
Supply: £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 69

O'CONNOR, Mr. T. P., *Liverpool, Scotland*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 553, 555, 558, 559, 562

O'MALLEY, Mr. W., *Galway, Connemara*
Lough Corrib *July* 23, 454
Postal and Telegraphic Facilities (Ireland) *July* 21, 247, 248
Supply: £616,077 for National Education in Ireland *July* 24, 645

O'NIELL, Hon. R. T., *Antrim, Mid*
Carnlough (Antrim)
Constabulary Station *July* 24, 602
Drunkenness *July* 31, 1256

ORANMORE AND BROWNE, Lord
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1572, 1614, 1626

**Orkney and Zetland Small Piers and Harbours (Re-committed) Bill**
*l.* In Com., Amendts. made; Standing Com. negatived *July* 20, 111
Amendts. Rep. *July* 21, 245
Read 3ª with the Amendts.; Passed, and Returned to Commons *July* 23, 417

**Parliament**
LORDS—
*Business of the House*
*Government Bills (Provisional Order Bills)*, Suspension of Order of 16th March: Lord Harris, (*Motion*) 581; Earl of Morley, 581; (*Motion Agreed to*, 581) *July* 24.
Viscount Cross, (*Motion*) *July* 27, 669
*Private Bills*—Suspension of Order of the House of 16th March *July* 17, 6, 7
Earl of Morley, (*Motion*) 789; Standing Orders Amended, 796 *July* 28
*Standing Orders*—No. XXXIX Considered in Respect to the Finance Bill and Dispensed with *Aug* 4, 1419
Earl of Morley, (*Motion to Amend*) 789; (*Agreed to*, 796) *July* 28
*Miscellaneous*
*Bank Holiday*—Marquess of Salisbury, (*Motion*) *July* 31, 1233
*Meeting of the House*—Viscount Cross, (*Motion*) *July* 28, 805
*Sat First*
*July* 30—Lord Moncreiff, after the death of his father

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*PARLIAMENT*—cont.
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*Business of the House and Public Business*
*Business of the House*—Mr. A. J. Balfour, (*Statement*) 107, 108; Mr. T. M. Healy, 108; Dr. Tanner, 108; Colonel Saunderson, 108; Mr. H. V. Duncombe, 108 *July* 17.
*Qs.* Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. J. Dillon; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 22, 415. *Qs.* Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. Gibson Bowles; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 23, 485. *Qs.* Mr. Luttrell, Sir G. O. Trevelyan, Mr. J. Dillon, Sir A. K. Rollit; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 24, 611. *Q.* Mr. E. Strachey; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 27, 704. *Q.* Sir W. Harcourt; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 30, 1056. *Qs.* Mr. J. Morley, Sir C. Dilke, Mr. J. M. Maclean; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *Aug* 4, 1453. *Qs.* Mr. J. H. Dalziel, Mr. A. O'Connor, Colonel Hughes; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *Aug* 6, 1703
*Government Bills*, *Qs.* Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 21, 273; *Aug* 3, 1355
*Government Business*—Mr. A. J. Balfour, (*Motion*) 154, 159, 161, 162, 167, 174, 177, 183, 185, 189, 190, 191; Colonel Saunderson, 161, 175, 177, 191; Sir W. Harcourt, 161, 163, 167, 185, 190; Sir J. Fergusson, 172; Sir C. Dilke, 173, 174; Mr. T. R. Buchanan, 177; Mr. J. Lowther, 179, 191; Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 181; Sir J. Lubbock, 182; Mr. H. Labouchere, 185, 187; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 187, 188; Mr. Wootton Isaacson, 188; [Mr. Speaker, 188, 191;] Mr. J. Redmond, 188; Mr. S. T. Evans, 188; Mr. J. H. Lewis, 189; Sir H. Fowler, (*Amendt.*) 189; Mr T. M. Healy, 190; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 192); (*Division*, 192) *July* 20
*Public Business*, *Qs.* Mr. H. Labouchere, Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. F. A. Channing, Sir A. K. Rollit, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 21, 274
*Saturday Sitting*, *Qs.* Sir C. Dilke, Sir H. Fowler, Mr. E. Robertson, Mr. J. Bryce; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 31, 1266
*Standing Orders (Suspension of)* — Nos. LXXXIV, CCXIV, CCXV, and CCXXXIX: Dr. Farquharson, (*Motion*) 1234; Mr. T. Harrington, 1234, 1238, 1241; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1235, 1239, 1241; Mr. Vesey Knox, 1235; [Mr. Speaker, 1235, 1238, 1240;] Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1237; Mr. J. J. Clancy, 1240; Colonel Gunter 1241; (*Motion Agreed to*, 1241) *July* 31
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*Supply*, Mr. A. J. Balfour (*Motion*) *July* 21, 292

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*Business of the House and Public Business*—cont.
*Suspension of the Twelve o' Clock Rule*, *Qs.* Mr. H. Labouchere, Sir W. Harcourt; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 17, 40. *Q.* Mr. H. H. Bemrose; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 20, 153

*Committees*
*British South Africa Select* (see British South Africa, Appointment of Select Committee)
*Distress from Want of Employment Select* (see that Title)
*Petroleum*—Rep. from Select Com. with Minutes of Evidence Brought up and Read *July* 23, 452
*Public Petitions*—Twelfth Report Brought up, Read, and Laid on the Table *July* 23, 452

*Miscellaneous*
*Duration of Speeches*—Major Rasch *Aug* 3, 1342
*Government Offices*, *Q.* Mr. G. W. E. Loder; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 31, 1258
*House of Commons*
*Lobby Mosaics*, *Q.* Dr. Farquharson; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *Aug* 3, 1352
*Telegraphic Communication*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Lewis; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 31, 1261
*Index to Acts of Parliament*, *Q.* Mr. J. Brigg; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 27, 689
*Royal Commission on Financial Relations*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 31, 1263
*Smoking Accommodation (Lords and Commons)*, *Qs.* Mr. J. Aird, Mr. Gibson Bowles; *As.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 30, 1045

**Parliamentary Costs Bill**
*l.* In Com., Amendts. Proposed by Joint Com. made; Standing Com. negatived *July* 17, 9
Amendts. Rep. *July* 20, 119
Read 3ª and Sent to Commons *July* 21, 246
*c.* Read 1° *July* 27, 674
Withdrawn *Aug* 6, 1755

**Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes) Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *July* 22, 365

Parnell, Mr. J. H., *Meath, S.*
Carriage of Letters (Irish Railways) *July* 28, 810

Pease, Mr. Joseph A., *Northumberland, Tyneside*
Slavery at Zanzibar *Aug* 6, 1697
Slave Trade in Morocco *Aug* 6, 1698

PEMBROKE and MONTGOMERY Earl of (Lord Steward of the Household)
Edinburgh General Register House Bill, 2R. *July* 17, 8
Public Offices (Site) Bill, 2R. *July* 17, 7

*Pensions*
*Army*
*Bryson (Thomas)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 23, 473
*Murray (Hugh)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. Powell-Williams *July* 24, 594
*de Wet (Sir Jacobus)*, *Qs.* Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 28, 827
*Irish Teachers' Fund*, *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox, Mr. J. J. Clancy; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 261. *Qs.* Mr. Vesey Knox, Mr. W. Field, Mr. J. J. Clancy; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach, Mr. Hanbury, Mr. G. Balfour *July* 23, 456
*National School Teachers (Cork County)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 20, 149
*Prison Officers*, *Q.* Mr. Luttrell; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 21, 267

Perks Mr. R. W., *Lincolnshire, Louth*
Mombasa-Uganda Railway *July* 23, 468, 469
Uganda Railway Bill, In Com. *July* 30, 1095, 1096, 1098, 1100, 1101, 1103, 1105, 1108

Pickard, Mr. Benjamin, *Yorkshire, W.R., Normanton*
Claim by Check-weighman (Wakefield) *July* 31, 1261
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 742, 748, 765

Pickersgill, Mr. E. H., *Bethnal Green, S.W.*
East London Water
Company *July* 27, 702; *July* 30, 1025
Supply *Aug* 6, 1697
Police Supervision *July* 21, 271
Truck Bill *July* 30, 1088

**Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

Pierpoint, Mr. R., *Warrington*
Game Licences (Scotland) *Aug* 6, 1701

**Pilotage Provisional Order Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

Pinkerton, Mr. J., *Galway Borough*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 229, 230; *July* 23, 507, 509, 523, 559, 573

Pirie, Captain D. V., *Aberdeen, N.*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1478; *Aug* 5, 1549
Aldershot (Tent Floor Boards) *Aug* 4, 1443; *Aug* 6, 1699
Fisheries Acts Amendment Bill *July* 21, 265
Public Health (Scotland) Bill *Aug* 4, 1450

Playfair, Lord
London University Commission Bill, 2R. *July* 23, 439; 3R. *July* 30, 1007

PLUNKETT, Hon. HORACE C., *Dublin County, S.*
Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 3, 1339, 1340
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 22, 386; *July* 28, 861
Lighthouse Illuminants *July* 24, 608
Supply
£2,450 for Queen's Colleges, Ireland *July* 24, 661
£75,656 for Supreme Court of Judicature and Other Legal Departments in Ireland *July* 24, 665, 667

*Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills*
Special Report Brought up and Read (*c.*) *July* 17, 25

POLLOCK, Mr. H. F., *Lincoln, Spalding*
Donington Education Scheme *July* 17, 39

*Poor Law Schools Committee's Report*
Return Pres. (*c.*) *July* 22, 365

*Poor Relief (England and Wales)*
Copy of Expenditure Pres. (*c.*) *July* 21, 246

**Portsmouth (Borough) Water Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

PORTSMOUTH, Earl of
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1575, 1600

**Portsmouth Street Tramways Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Port Talbot Railway and Docks (Ogmore Valleys Extension) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**POST OFFICE**

Postmaster General—Duke of NORFOLK

*Antrim County (Postal Arrangements)*, *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 596
*Ashford Fire Brigade*, *Q.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 592
*Belfast*
*Female Telegraphists*, *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 6, 1683
*Letters from*, *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 4, 1441
*Carriage of Letters (Irish Railways)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Parnell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 810
*Castlecomer Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. T. B. Curran; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 809
*Cheques, Transmission of (Postal Regulations)*, *Qs.* Mr. F. G. Barnes; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 688
*Continental Mail*, *Q.* Mr. D. Lloyd-George; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1263
*Destruction of Mail Van (Great Northern of Ireland Railway)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 479

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*POST OFFICE*—cont.
*Drumbrackin Post Office (Carrickmacross)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1258
*Dublin*
*General Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. T. Harrington; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 120
*Mail Service (London and)*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 475. *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1259
*Dunraymond Postmaster (Monaghan County)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 132
*Employés*, *Q.* Mr. C. Shaw; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 140
*General Post Office (Dublin)*, *Q.* Mr. T. Harrington; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 120
*Great Northern of Ireland Railway (Destruction of Mail Van)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 479
*Irish Mails*
*American and*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 34
*English and*, *Qs.* Mr. M. J. Flavin; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 601. *Qs.* Mr. S. Young, Mr. T. J. Condon, Mr. M. Austin; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 3, 1343
*New Contract*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 149
*Service*, *Qs.* Sir T. Esmonde, Captain Donelan, Mr. J. C. Flynn, Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 597
*Irish Railways (Carriage of Letters)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Parnell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 810
*Kinsale (Old Head of)*
*Postmaster*, *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 680
*Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 826
*Letters*
*Belfast, from*, *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 4, 1441
*Carriage of (Irish Railways)*, *Q.* Mr. J. H. Parnell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 810
*Limerick*
*Mails*, *Q.* Mr. M. Austin; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1264
*Post Office*, *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 6, 1696
*Mail Service*
*American and Irish*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Captain Donelan; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 34
*Continental*, *Q.* Mr. D. Lloyd-George; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1263
*Destruction of Van (Great Northern of Ireland Railway)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 479
*Dublin and London*, *Qs.* Mr. M. McCartan, Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. J. C. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 475 *Q.* Mr. J. L. Carew; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1259
*English and Irish*, *Qs.* Mr. M. J. Flavin; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 601. *Qs.* Mr. S. Young, Mr. T. J. Condon, Mr. M. Austin; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 3, 1343

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*POST OFFICE*—cont.
*Mail Service*—cont.
*Ireland, in,* *Qs.* Sir T. Esmonde, Captain Donelan, Mr. J. C. Flynn, Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 597. *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 30, 1054
*Limerick,* *Q.* Mr. M. Austin; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1264
*New Contract (Irish),* *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 149
*Manchester Postal Delivery,* *Q.* Mr. C. E. Schwann; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 824
*Parcel Post*
*Agricultural,* *Q.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 30, 1049
*Customs Duty,* *Q.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 678
*Re-direction,* *Q.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 143
*Van (Fire in),* *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 30, 1027
*Pattern Post,* *Qs.* Mr. Henniker Heaton; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 21, 251; *July* 28, 808; *July* 30, 1027
*Postal*
*Arrangements (Antrim County),* *Q.* Mr. M. McCartan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 596
*Delivery (Manchester),* *Q.* Mr. C. E. Schwann; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 824
*Regulations (Transmission of Cheques),* *Qs.* Mr. F. G. Barnes; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 688
*Telegraphic Facilities (Ireland),* *Qs.* Mr. W. O'Malley, Mr. Engledow, Mr. J. Tully, Mr. P. Ffrench; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 21, 247
*Postmaster*
*Dunraymond,* *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 132
*Old Head of Kinsale,* *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 27, 680
*Post Office*
*Appointments (Ireland),* *Q.* Mr. Vesey Knox; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 459
*Castlecomer* *Q.* Mr. T. B. Curran; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 809
*Drumbrackin (Carrickmacross),* *Q.* Mr. J. Daly; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1258
*Dublin (General),* *Q.* Mr. T. Harrington; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 120
*Limerick,* *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 6, 1696
*Old Head of Kinsale,* *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 28, 826
*Post Office Consolidation Bill,* *Qs.* Lord Thring; [*Obs.* Lord Halsbury, Lord Herschell;] *As.* Earl of Selborne *July* 30, 1014
*Savings Bank (Profit and Loss),* *Q.* Mr. T. Burt; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *Aug* 3, 1350
*Sorters,* *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 31, 1259
*Telegraphists*
*Female (Belfast),* *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; [Mr. Speaker;] *As.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 6, 1683
*Leave,* *Q.* Sir A. K. Rollit; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 24, 606

**Post Office Consolidation Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *July* 20, 242
(For Questions see POST OFFICE)

POWELL-WILLIAMS, Mr. J. (see WILLIAMS)

POWER, Mr. P. J., *Waterford, E.*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 357, 360; *July* 28, 842
Loans to Fishermen (Ireland) *July* 24, 603

POWERSCOURT, Viscount
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1577, 1609, 1648

**Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

*Prisons* (see LAW AND JUSTICE AND POLICE)

**Public Health Bill**
*l.* Read 3ª and Passed *July* 24, 587

**Public Health (Ireland) Bill**
*c.* Considered as Amended; Debate Resumed: Dr. Clark, *Aug* 3, 1416
Re-committed *Aug* 3, 1416
In Com., Rep. as Amended *Aug* 3, 1416
Read 3ª and Passed *Aug* 6, 1756

**Public Health (Ports) Bill**
*l.* 2R. Lord Harris *July* 20, 118
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 2, 119
In Com., Rep. without Amendt.; Standing Com. negatived *July* 21, 346
Read 3ª and Passed *July* 24, 591

**Public Offices (Site) Bill**
*l.* 2R. Earl of Pembroke *July* 17, 7
Read 2ª and com.; Com. to be Proposed by Com. of Selection *July* 17, 8
Rep. from Select Com., That the Com. had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; Orders made on 17th July Discharged; Rep. without Amendt.) and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 21, 245
In Com., Rep. without Amendt.; Standing Com. negatived *July* 23, 417
Read 3ª and Passed *July* 24, 591

**Public Works (Loans) Bill**
*c.* Intro. Mr. Hanbury; Read 1° *July* 27, 788
2R. Sir C. Dilke, 1142; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1142; Mr. Hanbury, 1142, 1143; Mr. J. P. Farrell, 1143; Dr. Tanner, 1143 *July* 30
Read 2° *July* 30, 1143
In Com., Mr. Hanbury, (*Motion*) 1316; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1316; (*Reso. Agreed to,* 1316) *July* 31
In Com., Mr. T. M. Healy, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1326; Mr. Hanbury, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1324, 1325, 1326; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 1319, 1320, 1322, 1323, 1324; Mr. J. G. Holborn, 1320; Mr. M. Healy, 1321, 1323; Mr. J. P. Smith, 1322, 1325; [Chairman, 1324;] [*Clause negatived,* 1324]; Mr. T. P. Whittaker, 1324, 1325 *Aug* 1
Rep. with an Amendt. *Aug* 1, 1326

PYM, Mr. C. GUY, *Bedford*
Assize Arrangements *July* 21, 273

**Quarter Sessions (London) Bill**
*c.* Intro. Mr. J. Stuart; Read 1° *July* 28, 832
(For Questions see HOME DEPARTMENT)

**Railway Assessors (Scotland) Superannuation Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *July* 20, 241

**RAILWAYS**
*Accidents at Preston*, *Q.* Lord Balcarres: *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 6, 1695
*Calcutta (Overland)*, *Q.* Mr. J. M. Maclean; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 21, 247
*Cattle Trucks*, *Qs.* Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 20, 139
*Cavan and Leitrim Light*, *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 26. *Qs.* Mr. J. Tully; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 20, 147; *July* 27, 689
*City and South London Railway Bill* (see that Title)
*Extension*
  *Burma*, *Q.* Mr. R. Souttar; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 31, 1253
  *India*, *Q.* Mr R. Ascroft; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 20, 146
*Great Northern of Ireland (Destruction of Mail Van)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 23, 479
*Indian Traffic Receipts*, *Q.* Mr. R. Souttar; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 31, 1252
*Level Crossing (Waterford and Limerick)*, *Q.* Mr. D. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 28, 817
*Light Railways Bill* (see that Title)
*Light Railways (Ireland) Bill*, *Q.* Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 250
*Light (Scotland)*, *Q.* Mr. W. Thorburn; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 17, 39
*Metropolitan Railway Bill* (see that Title)
*Milk Rates*, *Q.* Sir J. Dorington; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 31, 1250
*Mombasa-Uganda*, *Qs.* Mr. R. W. Perks; *As.* Mr. Curzon *July* 23, 468
*Outrages*, *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 269
*Preston (Accidents at)*, *Q.* Lord Balcarres; A. Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 6, 1695
*Railway Assessors (Scotland) Superannuation Bill* (see that Title)
*Railways (Ireland) Bill* (see that Title)
*Sectional Maps*, *Q.* Mr. Tomlinson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 28, 807
*Speed*, *Q.* Mr. S. Smith; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 482
*Stations*
  *Mountjoy*, *Q.* Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1047
  *Northwich*, *Q.* Sir J. T. Brunner; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 4, 1445
  *Saltaire*, *Q.* Mr. J. F. Flannery; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 28, 816
*Stone-throwing at Passenger Trains (Mullingar)*, *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour *Aug* 3, 1343

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*RAILWAYS*—cont.
*Uganda Railway Bill* (see that Title)
*Waterford and Limerick Level Crossing*, *Q.* Mr. D. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 28, 817
*West Highland*, *Q.* Mr. T. R. Buchanan; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *Aug* 6, 1699
*West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill* (see that Title)

**Railways (Ireland) Bill**
*c.* In Com., Mr. G. Balfour *July* 21, 364
Reso. Rep. *July* 22, 415
Rep. without Amendt. from Standing Com. on Trade, etc. *July* 24, 592
3R. Mr. T. M. Healy, 787; Mr. G. Balfour, 787 *July* 27
Read 3° and Passed *July* 27, 788
*l.* Read 1ª *July* 28, 805
2R. Earl of Ranfurly, 1145; Duke of Abercorn, 1146 *July* 31
Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *July* 31, 1146
In Com. Rep. without Amendt.; Standing Com. negatived *Aug* 4, 1427

RANFURLY, EARL OF (Lord in Waiting)
Labourers (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1008, 1012, 1013; In Com. *Aug* 4, 1421, 1423, 1426
Railways (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1145
Rents in Ireland *July* 17, 20

RANKIN, Mr. J., *Hereford, Leominster*
Emigrants' Information Office *July* 27, 682

RASCH, Major F. C., *Essex, S.E.*
Duration of Speeches *Aug* 3, 1342
European Troops (Indian) *July* 30, 1029
Lee-Metford
  Ammunition at Bisley *Aug* 6, 1692
  Rifle *July* 30, 1029

REAY, Lord
London University Commission Bill, 2R. *July* 23, 444

REDMOND, Mr. J. E., *Waterford City*
Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 6, 1663, 1669, 1675
Government Business *July* 20, 188
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 22, 371; 3R. *July* 29, 947

REDMOND, Mr. W. H. K., *Clare, E.*
de Wet (Sir Jacobus) *July* 28, 827
Labourers' Cottages (Tulla Union) *July* 28, 811
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 22, 386, 387; *July* 28, 903
Light Railways (Ireland) Bill *July* 21, 250
Public Business *July* 21, 277
Supply: £26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 56

REED, Mr. H. BYRON, *Bradford, E.*
Bradford Moor Barracks *July* 28, 813
Colonial Vote *July* 27, 704
Property Escheated to Crown *July* 28, 811

**Registration of Electors Acts Amendment Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *Aug* 3, 1357

REID, Sir R. T., *Dumfries Burghs*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1366, 1372, 1380, 1394, 1395; *Aug* 4, 1473, 1478, 1483, 1484; *Aug* 5, 1526
British South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1068
Transvaal Raid *July* 30, 1043

RENSHAW, Mr. C. B., *Renfrew, W.*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1469, 1488, 1498, 1499; *Aug* 5, 1542, 1543
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1125

RENTOUL, Mr. J. A., *Down, E.*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 325, 328, 337, 348; *July* 23, 509, 521, 559; *July* 28, 850; 3R. *July* 29, 948, 949

*Rents in Ireland* (see Title IRELAND, RENTS IN)

RICHARDS, Mr. HENRY C., *Finsbury, E.*
Dog Muzzling *July* 23, 482
Mobilization Scheme (Thames and Medway Guns) *July* 20, 142

RICKETT, Mr. J. COMPTON, *Scarborough*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1495

RIDLEY, RIGHT HON. SIR MATTHEW WHITE, BART. (Secretary of State for the Home Department), *Lancashire, N., Blackpool*
Bakehouses *July* 27, 692
Bottling Beer (Factory Regulations) *July* 28, 829
Burglary (St. Helens), Charge of *July* 28, 825; *Aug* 3, 1352
Burial at Shirland, near Alfreton *July* 20, 122; *Aug* 6, 1688
Cardiff (Parachute Accident) *July* 28, 827
Check-weighman, Claim by (Wakefield) *July* 31, 1262
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 734, 737, 738, 742, 749, 752, 753, 754, 755, 766; *Aug* 6, 1696
Convict Prison Warders *July* 20, 130; *July* 30, 1044
Excursion Steamers (Drunkenness) *Aug* 3, 1355
Factory Regulations (Bottling Beer) *July* 28, 829
Jameson (Dr.) and his Colleagues (Prison Treatment of) *July* 31, 1269
Maybrick (Mrs.) *July* 31, 1265

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RIDLEY, Right Hon. Sir M. W.—*cont.*
Metropolitan Police
Summer Clothing *July* 23, 471
Uniform *July* 31, 1245
Mines Committee (Merionethshire) *July* 30, 1054
Open Quarries *July* 28, 824
Parachute Accident (Cardiff) *July* 28, 827
Police Supervision *July* 21, 271
Prison
Officers' Pensions *July* 21, 267
Treatment of Dr. Jameson and his Colleagues *July* 31, 1269
Warders (Convict) *July* 20, 130; *July* 30, 1044
Prisoners' Aid Societies *July* 20, 131
Quarter Sessions (London) Bill *Aug* 3, 1356
Regents Canal *July* 21, 255
Royal Commission (Vaccination) *Aug* 6, 1677
St. Helens (Charge of Burglary) *July* 28, 825; *Aug* 3, 1352
Shirland, near Alfreton (Nonconformist Burial Service) *July* 20, 122; *Aug* 6, 1688
Street Collections *July* 21, 259
Supply: £78,610 for Home Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1272, 1274, 1275, 1281, 1287, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295
Transvaal Raid *July* 30, 1042, 1043
Truck Bill *July* 27, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 779, 780; *July* 30, 1078, 1079, 1082, 1084, 1086, 1088, 1090, 1092, 1093
Ulverston Burial Board *July* 28, 812
Vaccination (Royal Commission) *Aug* 6, 1677
Wakefield (Claim by Check-weighman) *July* 31, 1262

RITCHIE, RIGHT HON. CHARLES T. (President of the Board of Trade), *Croydon*
Artillery Practice Ranges *July* 21, 260
British Ports (Foreign Vessels in) *July* 21, 250
Commissioners of Irish Lights (Wrongful Dismissal) *July* 21, 271; *July* 27, 696; *July* 30, 1049; *July* 31, 1260
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 725, 726, 727, 732, 733
Drowning Cases (River Lea) *Aug* 4, 1441
"*Drummond Castle*" (Wreck of) *July* 23, 482; *July* 30, 1046
Electric Lighting and Electric Traction *July* 30, 1055
European States (Shipowners' Liability) *July* 21, 247
Examination of Masters and Mates (Mercantile Marine) *Aug* 6, 1681
Fisheries Acts Amendment Bill *July* 21, 265, 266
Foreign Vessels in British Ports *July* 21, 250
Level Crossing (Waterford and Limerick Railway) *July* 28, 817
Lighthouse Illuminants *July* 24, 608
Light Railways Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 1131
Light Railways (Scotland) *July* 17, 39
Longford Canal Harbour *July* 30, 1054
Mercantile Marine (Examination of Masters and Mates) *Aug* 6, 1681
Merchandise Marks Act *Aug* 6, 1702
Metric System *July* 17, 25
"*Moresby*" (Wreck of) *July* 23, 465

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RITCHIE, Right Hon. C. T.—*cont.*
  Preservation of Life and Property at Sea *July* 24, 606
  Railway
    Accidents (Preston) *Aug* 6, 1696
    Cattle Trucks *July* 20, 139, 140
    Outrages *July* 21, 269
    Rates (Milk) *July* 31, 1250
    Sectional Maps *July* 28, 807
    Speed *July* 23, 482
    Stations
      Mountjoy *July* 30, 1047
      Northwich *Aug* 4, 1445
      Saltaire *July* 28, 817
  Rule of the Road at Sea *July* 30, 1039, 1340
  Scotland (Light Railways) *July* 17, 39
  Seamen
    Supply of *July* 23, 470
    Transmission of Wages *Aug* 6, 1682
  Shipowners' Liability (European States) *July* 21, 247
  Supply: £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1295, 1296, 1302, 1303, 1307, 1308, 1312, 1313
  Waterford and Limerick Railway (Level Crossing) *July* 28, 817
  Weights and Measures Bill, Intro. *July* 30, 1056, 1057
  Wrecks
    "*Drummond Castle*" *July* 23, 482; *July* 30, 1046
    "*Moresby*" *July* 23, 465
  Wrongful Dismissal (Commissioners of Irish Lights) *July* 21, 271; *July* 27, 696; *July* 30, 1049; *July* 31, 1260

ROBERTS, Mr. J. BRYN, *Carnarvonshire, Eifion*
  British South Africa
    Appointment of Select Committee *July* 30, 1071
    Company *July* 20, 139
  Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 741
  Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1115
  Uganda Railway Bill, In Com. *July* 30, 1101

ROBERTS, Mr. J. HERBERT, *Denbigh, W.*
  Affairs of Egin and Aintab *July* 20, 142
  Disturbances at Niksar *Aug* 4, 1450
  Maharaja of Jhalawar *July* 21, 251, 277, 278, 279, 285, 292
  Persecution of Armenians *July* 30, 1047
  Soudan (Cost of Military Operations) *July* 17, 38

ROBERTSON, Mr. EDMUND, *Dundee*
  Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1361, 1363, 1374, 1376, 1387, 1393; *Aug* 4, 1462, 1469, 1476, 1492, 1495, 1499, 1507, 1508; *Aug* 5, 1523, 1524, 1526, 1546; *Aug* 6, 1733, 1748
  Business of the House (Saturday Sitting) *July* 31, 1267
  Land Tax *July* 20, 144
  Supply: £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1303, 1304

ROBERTSON, Mr. T. H., *Hackney, S.*
  Aldingham Parish Church (Ulverston) *Aug* 3, 1350
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 215, 216, 218; *July* 21, 299, 301

ROBSON, Mr. W. S., *South Shields*
  Arrest of British Seamen *July* 17, 30

ROCHE, Hon. JAMES, *Kerry, E.*
  Kerry County
    Aremberg Chute Estate *July* 21, 253
    Charge of Perjury *July* 20, 128
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 495
  Wreck of "*Drummond Castle*" *July* 23, 481

ROLLIT, Sir A. K., *Islington, S.*
  British
    South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1072
    Trade Abroad (Commercial Attachés), *July* 27, 677
  Business of the House *July* 24, 612
  Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 731
  Public Business *July* 21, 277
  Supply: £616,077 for National Education in Ireland *July* 24, 627
  Telegraphists' Leave *July* 24, 606

ROSEBERY, Earl of
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1180; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1649

ROSSE, Earl of
  Rents in Ireland *July* 17, 18

*Roxborough Schools, Limerick (Correspondence)*
  Return Pres. (*c.*) *July* 24, 592

*Rule of the Road at Sea*
  *Regulations (Revised)*, *Qs.* Mr. A. F. Warr, Mr. Gibson Bowles; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1038

RUSSELL, Colonel F. S., *Cheltenham*
  Army Food and Forage Supplies *Aug* 6, 1680

RUSSELL, MR. T. W. (Secretary to the Local Government Board), *Tyrone, S.*
  Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 531, 541, 542; *July* 28, 851, 852, 854; 3R. *July* 29, 975
  Local Government Provisional Order (No. 23) Bill, 3R. *July* 28, 806
  Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1110, 1114, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1124, 1125

RUTHERFORD, Mr. JOHN, *Lancashire, N.E., Darwen*
  Truck Bill *July* 27, 768

SALISBURY, Lord Bishop of
- Light Railways Bill, 2R. *Aug* 4, 1433
- London University Commission Bill, 3R. *July* 30, 1007

SALISBURY, MARQUESS of (Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs)
- Arbitration and Venezuela *July* 17, 1
- Bank Holiday *July* 31, 1233
- Infant Life Protection Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 424, 425, 426, 428
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1180, 1231; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1650
- Massacre near Kharput, Reported *July* 20, 112
- Queen's Reign *July* 27, 672
- Venezuela and Arbitration *July* 17, 1

SAMUEL, Mr. HARRY S., *Tower Hamlets, Limehouse*
- Diphtheria (Anti-toxic Serums) *July* 30, 1040
- East London Water
  - Company *July* 21, 262; *July* 27, 702; *July* 30, 1024
  - Supply *July* 31, 1268

SAMUEL, Mr. J., *Stockton-on-Tees*
- Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill, 2R. *July* 27, 787
- Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1127
- Locomotives on Highways [Excise Duty], In Com. *July* 27, 784
- Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill *July* 21, 274
- Truck Bill *July* 27, 766, 769, 776, 777, 781; *July* 30, 1077, 1093, 1094

SAUNDERSON, Colonel E. J., *Armagh, N.*
- Business of the House: Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 17, 108
- Government Business *July* 20, 161, 175, 177, 191
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill; In Com. *July* 20, 207, 220, 221, 222, 227, 228, 237; *July* 21, 293, 314; *July* 22, 381, 384, 385, 406, 413; *July* 23, 496, 497, 509, 535, 556, 561, 563; *July* 28, 839, 850, 860, 891, 892, 901, 934; 3R. *July* 29, 940, 941, 945, 966

SCHWANN, Mr. C. E., *Manchester, N.*
- Postal Delivery (Manchester) *July* 28, 824

SCOBLE, Sir A. R., *Hackney, Central*
- Quarter Sessions (London) Bill *Aug* 3, 1356

**SCOTLAND**

Secretary for—Lord BALFOUR
Lord Advocate—Mr. A. G. MURRAY
Solicitor General—Mr. C. S. DICKSON

- *Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, Q.* Mr. J. W. Crombie: *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 20, 152 (For Debate see Title of Bill)

[*cont.*

*SCOTLAND*—cont.
- *Barrack Accommodation (Dingwall, Ross-shire), Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Brodrick *July* 27, 675
- *Death of a Workman (Glasgow), Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 31, 1253
- *Dunbar (Renewal of Licence), Q.* Mr. J. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 27, 684
- *Edinburgh General Register House Bill* (see that Title)
- *Exchequer Court, Q.* Mr. R. Cox; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 20, 121
- *Fee Grant (Supplementary), Qs.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 27, 697; *July* 28, 822. *Q.* Mr. W. Thorburn; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 30, 1045
- *Financial Relations Inquiry, Q.* Dr. Farquharson; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 20, 153
- *Game Licences, Q.* Mr. R. Pierpoint; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *Aug* 6, 1701
- *Glasgow*
  - *Death of a Workman, Q.* Mr. J. Tully; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 31, 1253
  - *Meat Market, Qs.* Mr. R. Souttar, Mr. J. B. Balfour; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 31, 1245
- *Holyrood Palace, Q.* Mr. Massey-Mainwaring; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 17, 28
- *Housing of the Working Classes (Scotland) Bill* (see that Title)
- *Illegal Trawling (Scotch Waters), Q.* Mr. J. McLeod; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *Aug* 6, 1695
- *Kirk Session of Laurencekirk, Q.* Mr. J. W. Crombie; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *Aug* 3, 1342
- *Kirkwall (Naval Reserve Vessel), Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Macartney *July* 27, 702
- *Licence Renewal (Dunbar), Q.* Mr. J. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 27, 684
- *Light Railways, Q.* Mr. W. Thorburn; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 17, 39
- *Meat Market (Glasgow), Qs.* Mr. R. Souttar, Mr. J. B. Balfour; *As.* Mr. Graham Murray *July* 31, 1245
- *National Gallery of Scotland, Qs.* Mr. T. R. Buchanan; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, Sir M. Hicks Beach *Aug* 6, 1700
- *Naval Reserve Vessel (Kirkwall), Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Macartney *July* 27, 702
- *North Sea Fisheries, Q.* Mr. T. R. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *Aug* 6, 1698
- *Orkney and Zetland Small Piers and Harbours (Re-committed) Bill* (see that Title)
- *Public Health (Scotland) Bill, Q.* Captain Pirie; *A.* Mr. Graham Murray *Aug* 4, 1450
- *Railway Assessors (Scotland) Superannuation Bill* (see that Title)
- *West Highland Railway, Q.* Mr. T. R. Buchanan; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *Aug* 6, 1699
- *West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill* (see that Title)

SCOTT, Mr. C. P., *Lancashire, S.W., Leigh*
- Matabeleland *July* 21, 266

SELBORNE, Earl of (Under Secretary of State for the Colonies)
Government of Norfolk Island *July* 30, 1020
Post Office Consolidation Bill *July* 30, 1014

Sharpe, Mr. W. E. T., *Kensington, N.*
Supply: £2,450 for Queen's Colleges (Ireland) *July* 24, 657

Shaw, Mr. Charles E., *Stafford*
Assizes (Stafford) *July* 30, 1055
Post Office Employés *July* 20, 140

Shaw, Mr. T., *Hawick Burghs*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com., *Aug* 3, 1357, 1361, 1391, 1400; *Aug* 4, 1464, 1474, 1508; *Aug* 5, 1522
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 532

Shee, Mr. J. J., *Waterford, W.*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 22, 387; *July* 23, 565
Local Loans Stock *July* 24, 609
Wreck of s.s. "*Moresby*" *July* 23, 465

**Sheffield Corporation Tramways Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

*Shipwrecks*
"*Drummond Castle*," *Q.* Mr. James Roche; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 481. *Q.* Mr. H. C. Stephens; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1046
"*Moresby*," *Q.* Mr. J. J. Shee; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 465

**Shops Bill**
*c.* Intro. Sir C. Dilke; Read 1° *Aug* 4, 1454

**Short Titles Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

Simeon, Sir J. S. B., Bart., *Southampton*
Artillery Practice Ranges *July* 21, 259

Skewes-Cox, Mr. T., *Surrey, Kingston*
Dublin Corporation Bill *Aug* 6, 1655

Smith-Barry, Right Hon. A. H., *Hunts, S.*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 329, 359; *July* 22, 371, 386; *July* 23, 496, 497, 535, 552, 556, 573, 579; *July* 28, 874, 885, 892, 898, 911; 3R. *July* 29, 938

Smith, Hon. W. F. Danvers, *Strand, Westminster*
Bakehouses *July* 27, 692
Lunatics (Trade Debts) *Aug* 4, 1452

Smith, Mr. J. Parker, *Lanark, Partick*
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 21, 307
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1114, 1122
Public Works Loans Bill, In Com. *Aug* 1, 1322, 1325

Smith, Mr. Samuel, *Flintshire*
Kafiristan *July* 31, 1251
Pasteur Institute (India) *Aug* 4, 1452
Railway Speed *July* 23, 482
Supply: £9,600 for Commissioners in Lunacy Office, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1314

**South Eastern Railway Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

Souttar, Mr. R., *Dumfries-shire*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1357, 1375, 1393; *Aug* 4, 1480, 1484; *Aug* 5, 1519; *Aug* 6, 1717, 1720
Burma Railway Extension *July* 31, 1253
Glasgow Meat Market *July* 31, 1245
Indian Railways (Traffic Receipts) *July* 31, 1252

**Speaker, Mr.**

The Right Hon.
WILLIAM COURT GULLY, Q.C.,
*Carlisle*

*Questions*
As to the first question there can be no doubt as to the right to move to withdraw the clauses. The right hon. Gentleman's point will arise later on, when the Motion is made to add this new clause and when the Chairman of Committees is in the Chair; and it would not be right for me to anticipate the Chairman's decision. As to the second point, that is also one on which I ought not to express an opinion. The right hon. Gentleman asks me to give an opinion as to the effect of certain proceedings taken in Committee on Thursday upon a question which will be raised in Committee to-day. That, I take it, is a matter on which I should be wrong in offering any opinion, as the whole of the facts are within the knowledge of the Chairman of Committees, and not in my knowledge, and the responsibility is with him. I should be quite wrong if I attempted to anticipate his decision *July* 20, 153

*Rules and Order of Debate*
The hon. Gentleman will not be in order in going into the general question of the relation between the Indian Government and the native princes. He must confine himself to the question of the deposition of the Maharaja *July* 21, 291
The question is not as to the propriety of imposing fines, but as to whether they shall be binding on the workmen if enumerated in a particular notice and in particular circumstances *July* 27, 776
According to my recollection, there is nothing in the Bill about the powers of investment of trustees. This Amendment would appear to be more pertinent to a Trustee Investment Bill *July* 28, 834

[*cont.*

*SPEAKER, Mr.*—cont.

*Rules and Order of Debate*—cont.

The next clause which stands upon the Paper, in the name of the hon. Baronet the Member for South Londonderry, as I understand it, is not in order, because it proposes to throw an additional burden upon the State. The clause appears to me to propose that where a tenant has, under previous Acts, borrowed any portion of the purchase money from persons other than the State, the Land Commissioners shall make such further advance as may be required to pay off such debt. That would be to throw an increased burden upon the State, and such a proposal is out of order upon the Report stage of the Bill *July* 28, 876

The hon. Member is not entitled to comment on the sentence inflicted by the judges *July* 30, 1136

Whether the conduct of the clergymen ought to be reprehended or not, I do not see how it is relevant *July* 30, 1137

With regard to the question of the hon. Member for North Louth, it is quite true that in all Committees the Chairman is the guardian of order, and decides all points which arise in Committee. But when there is an Instruction from the House, and the Bill comes back from the Committee with matters in it which are outside that Instruction, then the whole matter is before the House, and it would be my duty to give my opinion as to whether or not the clauses of the Bill did go beyond the Instruction. Therefore, the hon. Member for the Harbour Division is entitled to my opinion on that point. As to the first clause to which the hon. Member has taken objection: the Instruction with regard to the franchise was to inquire into the advisability of extending the municipal franchise to all Parliamentary voters except lodgers. That was the material part of the Instruction; and it only gives powers to extend the franchise. As far as I have been able to make myself acquainted with the Act, the hon. Member for the Harbour Division is right in saying that the present municipal franchise includes persons living within seven miles of the boundaries who occupy tenements within the city. That franchise has been taken away by the clause, which is clearly beyond the Instruction. To take away a franchise is a serious matter, which no Committee have a right to do unless authorised to do it by the nature of the Bill itself or by an Instruction. If it be by an Instruction it ought to be by an express Instruction, or at least one drawn in terms clearly wide enough to empower the Committee to take away that franchise. In this Instruction there was no authority given to disfranchise, and to the extent to which it does so the clause is beyond the powers of the Committee. As to the point upon Sections 19 and 20, the Instruction of the hon. Member for North Monaghan was: "That the Committee have power to make provision for an amendment of the law as to the election of aldermen, councillors, and assessors." Those are general words, and would, I think, include the power to give a minority vote. But then the point is taken that because the hon. Member for Londonderry put an Instruction on the Paper specifically referring to the minority vote, which was withdrawn, that the Committee could have no power to deal with the subject of minority representation under the instruction of the hon. Member for North Monaghan. I think that is not so. An Instruction brought forward and withdrawn is as if it had never existed. All that the Speaker, or the Chairman of Committees, has to look to is the Instruction actually given to the Committee. With regard to Clause 23, the hon. Member for the Harbour Division is mistaken in supposing that the only offices which there was power for the Committee to deal with were offices held by officers annually elected by the Corporation. They were entitled, quite apart from those offices, to inquire into the election of assessors who are specifically named. But in that clause the Committee have also gone beyond their powers, because they have not only dealt with the offices of the assessors, but they have created two new officers—namely, two additional revising barristers—who are to be appointed by the Lord Lieutenant under the 20th & 21st Vict., chap 58. On referring to that Act I find that the powers of the Lord Lieutenant to appoint revising barristers are accompanied by the provision that their salaries are to be paid out of moneys to be voted by Parliament. It is quite clear that the Committee had no power to authorise the appointment of officers whose salaries are to be paid out of moneys to be voted by Parliament; and, therefore, that section is also out of order. Of course, the whole of the clauses from 15 to 26 are clauses which were put into the Bill only under the powers of these two Instructions; and the usual course where a Committee have only in part exceeded their Instructions, is to refer back to the Committee those parts of the Bill in which they have exceeded their Instructions. It is a matter entirely for the House and not for me, but I would suggest that, inasmuch as these sections from 15 to 26 form a code, as it were, the proper course would be to refer the whole of these sections back to the Committee to deal with them, because it is impossible for the House to know exactly how far the Committee were influenced in framing one section by the form which they have adopted for other sections. That would seem to be the most reasonable course *July* 31, 1235

I have not yet seen any question of privilege. The Select Committee when appointed have a right to fix their own

[*cont.*

*SPEAKER, Mr.*—cont
*Rules and Order of Debate.*—cont.
time, unless this House makes an Order to the contrary. It may be a matter of complaint, but it cannot be a question of privilege, that the Committee have appointed a day which is said to be inconvenient to the parties *Aug* 1, 1317
As far as I can see, nothing has been done contrary to any Rules of the House. The convenience of the parties is a matter for the Chairman of Committees *Aug* 1, 1318
It seems to me that what the hon. and learned Member proposes would be something extending the Instruction which stands in the name of the hon. Member for Cork. An Amendment by way of extension would be out of Order. I would suggest to the hon. and learned Member whether Instruction No. 6, which stands in the name of the hon. Member for the Harbour Division, might not be utilised by him by way of Amendment. That Instruction proposes to admit the evidence given before the former Committee, and that it be an Instruction to the Committee to take no further evidence as to Parts 1, 2, and 4 of the Bill, thus leaving No. 3 untouched, and the Committee entirely at large. Therefore it would be in order for the hon. Member to move as an Amendment to that Instruction some Instruction limiting the authority of the Committee to deal with Part 3, which was not touched *Aug* 3, 1331
It is not competent for the hon. Member to move any clause on Report which would have required an Instruction if it were to be considered in Committee. This clause would certainly have required an Instruction. For the same reason the following clause, in the name of the hon. Member for the College Green Division (Mr. Carew), is out of order *Aug* 6, 1652
The Council, as I understand it, nominates three persons, and out of those three persons the Lord Lieutenant appoints one to fill the office of High Sheriff. The High Sheriff appoints the Sub-Sheriff, and the question is whether the Sub-Sheriff is a person appointed by the Corporation. It seems to me that the Sheriff is not a person appointed by the Corporation within the meaning of the Instruction, and therefore the Committee in dealing with the office of Sub-Sheriff have exceeded their powers under the Instruction *Aug* 6, 1676

*Miscellaneous Rulings*
*July* 17, 36, 38; *July* 20, 188, 191, 243; *July* 21, 278, 291, 292; *July* 27, 722, 728, 736, 770, 771, 778; *July* 28, 834, 867, 876, 912, 915, 927; *July* 30, 1043, 1075; *July* 31, 1238, 1240, 1242, 1243, 1244; *Aug* 3, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1336, 1338, 1340, 1341, 1358, 1410, 1416; *Aug* 4, 1449; *Aug* 6, 1658, 1662, 1666, 1667, 1684, 1710, 1723

**Special Juries Bill**
*l.* Pres. Lord Halsbury; Read 1ª *July* 24, 587

SPENCER, Earl
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1205

STANHOPE, Hon. P. J., *Burnley*
Truck Bill *July* 27, 768, 769, 773

STANLEY OF ALDERLEY, Lord
Provisional Order Bills *July* 28, 796, 803

STANMORE, Lord
Massacre near Kharput (Reported) *July* 20, 111

**Stannaries Bill**
*c.* Read 1° *July* 23, 453
Read 2° and com. *July* 30, 1144
In Com., Dr. Tanner, (*Amendt.*) 1411; [Chairman, 1411;] Mr. S. T. Evans, 1412; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1412, 1413; Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 1412; R.P. *Aug* 3
In Com., Debate Resumed: Mr. D. Lloyd-George, 1514; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1515, 1516; Mr. A. Strauss, 1515; Mr. W. A. McArthur, 1515 *Aug* 4

*Statistics of Wages and Hours of Labour*
*Cotton Trade (Bombay and Madras)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Kenyon; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton *July* 30, 1042
*Cotton, Woollen, and Iron Trades (Foreign)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Kenyon; *A.* Mr. Curzon *July* 30, 1041

STEPHENS, Mr. H. C., *Middlesex, Hornsey*
"*Drummond Castle*," Wreck of *July* 30, 1046
Matabeleland (Arms and Ammunition) *July* 30, 1034
Supply: £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1304, 1308

STEVENSON, Mr. F. S, *Suffolk, Eye*
Disturbances in Diarbekir *July* 20, 145
Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill *July* 27, 692
Nazim Pasha and the Armenian Councils *July* 27, 693

**Stipendiary Magistrates (Ireland) Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *July* 20, 242

STIRLING-MAXWELL, Sir JOHN M., Bart., *Glasgow, College*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1487

STRACHEY, Mr. E., *Somerset, S.*
Business of the House *July* 27, 704
Supply: £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1311
West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, In Com. *July* 29, 992

STRAUSS, Mr. A., *Cornwall, Camborne*
Assize Arrangements *July* 21, 273
Stannaries Bill, In Com. *Aug* 4, 1515
Straits Settlements (Mining Royalty) *July* 30, 1052

STUART, Mr. J., *Shoreditch, Hoxton*
Quarter Sessions (London) Bill, Intro. *July* 28, 832

STUART-WORTLEY, Right Hon. C. B. (see WORTLEY)

SUDELEY, Lord
Labourers (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1010, 1012

*Superannuation*
Copy of Treasury Minute, dated July 23, 1896, granting a Retiring Allowance to Mr. Alfred Pike, Superintendent of County Courts, Treasury, Pres. (*c.*) *July* 30, 1021

**SUPPLY**

*£26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of*
In Com., Mr. J. Dillon, (*Amendt.*) 40, 41, 55, 65; [Chairman, 41, 44, 60, 62, 63, 67, 68, 72;] Mr. Swift MacNeill, 43, 44, 45, 64; Mr. W. Johnston, 45, 67; Mr. T. M. Healy, 46, 49, 50, 54, 64; Mr. G. Balfour, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, 64, 65, 73, 79, 80, 81; Mr. W. Redmond, 56; Mr. M. Healy, 59, 60; Mr. G. Murnaghan, 62, 63; Mr. J. Daly, 66, 67, 79; Mr. W. Field, 68; Mr. J. O'Connor, 69; Mr. J. C. Flynn, 69, 75; Dr. Tanner, 70, 77, 79; Mr. M. J. Flavin, 72, 73; Mr. J. J. Clancy, 75; Mr. J. P. Farrell, 76, 78; Mr. D. Macaleese, 78; Mr. M. Austin, 80. Vote Agreed to *July* 17. Report *July* 20, 241

*£26,700 for Civil Service Commission*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 21, 1315. Report *Aug* 6, 1755

*£29,400 for Colonial Office*
(For Questions see COLONIES—subheading *Colonial Vote*)

*£9,600 for Commissioners in Lunacy Office Salaries and Expenses*
In Com., Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 1314, 1315; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1314, 1315; Mr. S. Smith, 1314; Sir H. Fowler, 1315. Vote Agreed to *July* 31

*£77,700 for County Court Officers, etc. (Ireland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 24, 667. Report *July* 27, 782

[*cont.*

*SUPPLY*—cont.

*£66,298 for Dublin Metropolitan Police*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 24, 668. Report *July* 27, 782

*£3,841 for Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum (Ireland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 24 668. Report *July* 27, 783

*£605 for Endowed Schools Commissioners (Ireland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 24, 649. Report *July* 27, 781

*£39,974 for Exchequer and Audit Department Salaries and Expenses*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 31, 1315. Report *Aug* 3, 1414

*£5,300 for Friendly Societies Registry Salaries and Expenses*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 31, 1315. Report *Aug* 3, 1414

*£26,295 for General Register House, Edinburgh*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *Aug* 6, 1754

*£24,200 for Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Public Works and Communications)*
In Com., Mr. J. McLeod, 1754; Mr. Graham Murray, 1755. Vote Agreed to *Aug* 6

*£78,610 for Home Office Salaries and Expenses*
In Com., Mr. T. Lough, (*Amendt.*) 1270, 1274, 1275, 1281; Sir Matthew White Ridley, 1272, 1274, 1275, 1281, 1287, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295; Mr. J. Burns, 1275; Sir C. Dilke, 1276; Mr. E. Lees, 1278, 1280; Mr. H. H. Asquith, 1278, 1280; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1283); Mr. E. J. C. Morton, 1283, 1288; Mr. J. Dillon, 1284; Mr. M. Davitt, 1286; Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 1288; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1289; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 1290; Mr. T. Ellis, 1290, 1292; Mr. D. Lloyd-George, 1292, 1295; Mr. W. P. Morgan, 1293; Mr. J. H. Lewis, 1294; Mr. J. Daly, 1294; Mr. J. McLeod, 1295. Vote Agreed to *July* 31. Report *Aug* 3, 1413

*£8,774 for Hospitals and Charities (Ireland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 24, 668. Report *July* 27, 783

*£42,258 for Irish Land Commission*
In Com., Mr. J. Dillon, 667; Mr. Hanbury, 667; Mr. J. P. Farrell, 667. Vote Agreed to *July* 24. Report *July* 29, 991

[*cont.*

*SUPPLY*—cont.

*£41,825 for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions (Ireland)*
In Com., Mr. Arnold-Forster, 665; Mr. J. Atkinson, 665. Vote Agreed to *July* 24
Report: Mr. J. Dillon, 1135; Mr. J. P. Farrell, 1136; [Mr. Speaker, 1136, 1137;] Mr. T. M. Healy, 1136, 1137; Mr. W. Johnston, 1137; Mr. J. Atkinson, 1137; Dr. Tanner, 1139; Sir R. Webster, 1139 *July* 30
Agreed to *July* 30, 1139

*£7,591 for Local Government Board for Scotland*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *Aug* 6, 1754

*£9,600 for Lunacy Commissioners Office Salaries and Expenses*
Report *Aug* 3, 1414

*£3,573 for Lunacy Commission (Scotland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *Aug* 6, 1754

*£9,500 for National Debt Office Salaries and Expenses*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 31, 1315. Report *Aug* 3, 1414

*£616,077 for National Education in Ireland (including a Supplementary Sum of £3,375)*
In Com., Mr. Vesey Knox, 81, 85; [Chairman, 85, 94;] Mr. Arnold-Forster, 88; Mr. J. J. Clancy, 89, 90, 92, 97; Mr. Hanbury, 90, 92, 93, 96, 97, 100; Mr. T. M. Healy, 93, 94, 97; Mr. J. Chamberlain, 94; Mr. A. O'Connor, 99; Mr. W. Field, 100; Mr. T. Harrington, 101; Mr. E. H. Carson, 103; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 105; R.P. *July* 17
In Com., Debate Resumed: Mr. J. Dillon, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 637, 638, 639; Mr. Hanbury, 614, 628, 630, 631; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619; Mr. Vesey Knox, 616, 617, 619, 621, 623, 631, (*Amendt.*) 633; Mr. J. J. Clancy, 619; Mr. G. W. Wolff, 620; Mr. G. Balfour, 623, 637, 647, 649; Mr. S. Young, 624; Mr. J. Daly, 624; Mr. J. H. Yoxall, 625; Mr. Arnold-Forster, 626; Mr. J. Tully, 626, 640; Sir A. K. Rollit, 627; Mr. P. C. Doogan, 628, 645; Mr. T. M. Healy, 629, 630; Mr. A. O'Connor, 631, 634; Mr. W. Field, 632, 639, 646, 649; Mr. J. C. Flynn, 633; Mr. J. Caldwell, 634; (*Division*, 635;) Mr. J. P. Farrell, 635, 637; [Chairman, 638, 639, 640;] Mr. Swift MacNeill, 640, 641; Mr. H. Broadhurst, 640; Mr. M. Healy, 642; Mr. W. O'Malley, 645. Vote Agreed to *July* 24
Report: Mr. J. Daly, 987; Mr. M. J. Flavin, 988; Mr. J. Dillon, 988, 989, 990; Mr. G. Balfour, 988; Mr. G. Murnaghan, 989; Mr. Hanbury, 989, 990; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 990. Agreed to, 990 *July* 29

[*cont.*

*SUPPLY*—cont.

*£1,643 for National Gallery of Ireland*
In Com., Sir T. Esmonde, 649; Mr. G. Balfour, 649. Vote Agreed to *July* 24. Report *July* 27, 781

*£1,960 for National Gallery, etc. (Scotland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *Aug* 6, 1754

*£11,372 for Pauper Lunatics (Ireland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 24, 668. Report *July* 27, 783

*£70,642 for Prisons (Ireland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 24, 668. Report *July* 27, 782

*£55,356 for Prisons (Scotland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *Aug* 6, 1754

*£8,833 for Privy Council Office Salaries and Expenses*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 31, 1315. Report *Aug* 3, 1414

*£127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses*
In Com., Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 1295, 1299, 1300; Mr. Ritchie, 1295, 1296, 1302, 1303, 1307, 1308, 1312, 1313; Mr. J. H. Lewis, 1297; Mr. D. Lloyd-George, 1298, (*Amendt.*) 1309; Mr. J. Bryce, 1300, 1302, 1307; Mr. E. Robertson, 1303, 1304; [Chairman, 1304;] Mr. H. C. Stephens, (*Amendt.*) 1304, 1308; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 1306; Mr. W. P. Morgan, 1309; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1309); Mr. C. W. Cayzer, 1309; (*Division*, 1309); Mr. F. A. Channing, 1309, 1313; Dr. Tanner, 1310, 1314; Mr. E. Strachey, 1311; Mr. J. Daly, 1311; Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 1314. Vote Agreed to *July* 31. Report *Aug* 3, 1413

*£137,341 for Public Works and Buildings (Ireland)*
In Com., Mr. J. Tully, 662; Mr. Hanbury, 663; Mr. J. Dillon, 663: Sir J. Haslett, 663. Vote Agreed to *July* 24. Report *July* 27, 781

*£24,597 for Public Works Office (Ireland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 24, 665
Report: Mr. T. M. Healy, 1134, 1135; Mr. Hanbury, 1134 *July* 30
Reso. Agreed to *July* 30, 1135

*£2,450 for Queen's Colleges (Ireland)*
In Com., Mr. J. Dillon, 650, 651, 655, 658, 659; Mr. W. Johnston, 651, 652, 659; Mr. T. Harrington, 652; Mr. G. Balfour, 652; Mr. Swift MacNeill, 653, 655; Mr. G. W. Wolff, 655, 656; Mr. J. C. Flynn, 656; Mr. W. E. T. Sharpe, 657; Mr. H. C. Plunkett, 661; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 662. Vote Agreed to *July* 24. Report *July* 27, 781

[*cont.*

*SUPPLY*—cont.

*£19,503 for Railways (Ireland)*
In Com., Mr. J. Tully, 663; Mr. Hanbury, 664. Vote Agreed to *July* 24. Report *July* 27, 782

*£57,479 for Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Ireland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 24, 668. Report *July* 27, 783

*£3,175 for Registrar General's Office (Scotland)*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *Aug* 6, 1754

*£376,571 for Stationery and Printing*
In Com., Vote Agreed to *July* 31, 1315
Report: Mr. J. H. Lewis, 1551; Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 1551; Mr. J. McLeod, 1552; Mr. T. Lough, 1552; Mr. J. C. Williams, 1553; Mr. J. Burns, 1553; Mr. Hanbury, 1554 *Aug* 5
Agreed to *Aug* 5, 1556

*£75,656 for Supreme Court of Judicature and Other Legal Departments (Ireland)*
In Com., Mr. H. C. Plunkett, 665, 667; Mr. J. J. Clancy, 665; Mr. T. Harrington, 666; Mr. Hanbury, 666. Vote Agreed to *July* 24. Report *July* 27, 782

**Swansea Harbour Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

TALBOT, Mr. J. G., *Oxford University*
Berriew School *July* 24, 610
Vaccination (Royal Commission) *July* 24, 611

TANNER, DR. C. K. D., *Cork County, Mid*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill *Aug* 6, 1723
Business of the House: Land Law (Ireland) Bill *July* 17, 108
Military Lands Act (1892) Amendment Bill, 2R. *Aug* 3, 1409
Military Works (Money), In Com. *July* 20, 237
Public Works Loans Bill, 2R. *July* 30, 1143
Stannaries Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1411
Supply
£26,991 for Chief Secretary for Ireland, Office of *July* 17, 70, 77, 79
£41,825 for Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions (Ireland) *July* 30, 1139
£127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1310, 1314

**Teachers' Registration Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *July* 20, 243

**Telegraph Money Bill**
*c.* Read 2° and com. *July* 30, 1134
In Com. Rep. without Amendt. *Aug* 1, 1318

TEMPLETOWN, Viscount
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1215; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1565, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582
Rents in Ireland *July* 17, 10, 23

TENNANT, Mr. H. J., *Berwickshire*
Truck Bill *July* 27, 771

THOMAS, Mr. ABEL, *Carmarthenshire, E.*
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 737, 738, 742, 748, 749, 753

THOMAS, Mr. ALFRED, *Glamorgan, E.*
Elementary Schools (Mining Instruction) *July* 23, 477
Preservation of Life and Property at Sea *July* 24, 606

THOMAS, Mr. DAVID A., *Merthyr Tydvil*
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 734, 743
Parachute Accident (Cardiff) *July* 28, 826

THORBURN, Mr. W., *Peebles and Selkirk*
Education Fee Grant (Scotland) *July* 30, 1045
Incidence of Local Taxation Inquiry *July* 30, 1056
Light Railways (Scotland) *July* 17, 39

THRING, Lord
Infant Life Protection Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 426
Pollution of Rivers *July* 24, 584, 585
Post Office Consolidation Bill *July* 30, 1014, 1018

TOMLINSON, Mr. W. E. M., *Preston*
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 740, 754, 763
Railway Sectional Maps *July* 28, 807

**TRADE, BOARD OF**

President—Mr. C. T. RITCHIE
Secretary—Earl of DUDLEY

*Artillery Practice Ranges, Q.* Sir J. S. B. Simeon; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 259
*Commissioners of Irish Lights (Wrongful Dismissal), Qs.* Mr. W. Field; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 271; *July* 27, 696; *July* 30, 1049; *July* 31, 1260
*Drowning Cases (River Lea), Q.* Mr. L. R. Holland; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 4, 1441
*"Drummond Castle" (Wreck of), Q.* Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 481. *Q.* Mr. H. C. Stephens; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1046
*Electric Lighting and Electric Traction, Q.* Mr. E. Lees: *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1055
*Fisheries Acts Amendment Bill, Qs.* Mr. C. H. Wilson, Captain Pirie, Mr. T. R. Buchanan, Mr. J. Lowther; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 264

[*cont.*

*TRADE, BOARD OF*—cont.

*Foreign Vessels in British Ports,* Q. Mr. C. W. Cayzer; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 250
*Level Crossing (Waterford and Limerick Railway),* Q. Mr. D. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 28, 817
*Lighthouse Illuminants,* Q. Mr. H. C. Plunkett; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 24, 608
*Longford County (Royal Canal Harbour),* Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1053
*Mercantile Marine (Examination of Masters and Mates),* Q. Sir E. T. Gourley; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 6, 1680
*Merchandise Marks Acts,* Q. Mr. C. H. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 6, 1701
*Metric System,* Q. Sir Stafford Northcote; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 17, 25
*Milk Railway Rates,* Q. Sir J. Dorington; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 31, 1250
"*Moresby*" *(Wreck of),* Q. Mr. J. J. Shee; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 465
*Preservation of Life and Property at Sea,* Q. Mr. Alfred Thomas; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 24, 606
*Railway*
  *Accidents at Preston,* Q. Lord Balcarres; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 6, 1695
  *Cattle Trucks,* Q. Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 20, 139
  *Outrages,* Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 269
  *Sectional Maps,* Q. Mr. Tomlinson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 28, 807
  *Speed,* Q. Mr. S. Smith; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 482
  *Stations*
    *Mountjoy,* Q. Mr. W. Field; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1047
    *Northwich,* Q. Sir J. T. Brunner; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 4, 1445
    *Saltaire,* Q. Mr. J. F. Flannery; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 28, 816
*Royal Canal Harbour (Longford County),* Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1053
*Rule of the Road at Sea (Revised Regulations),* Qs. Mr. A. F. Warr, Mr. Gibson Bowles; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1038
*Seamen*
  *Supply of,* Q. Colonel Denny; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 470
  *Wages of (Transmission),* Qs. Sir E. T. Gourley, Colonel Denny, Mr. J. H. Wilson; *As.* Mr. Ritchie *Aug* 6, 1681
*Shipowners' Liability (European States),* Q. Sir E. S. Hill; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 21, 246
*Waterford and Limerick Railway (Level Crossing),* Q. Mr. D. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 28, 817
*Wrecks*
  "*Drummond Castle,*" Q. Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 481. Q. Mr. H. C. Stephens; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 30, 1046
  "*Moresby,*" Q. Mr. J. J. Shee; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *July* 23, 465

**Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

*Transvaal Raid* (see AFRICA)

**TREASURY**
First Lord—Mr. A. J. BALFOUR
Patronage Secretary—Sir W. H. WALROND
Financial Secretary—Mr. R. W. HANBURY
Lords Commissioners—Mr. H. T. ANSTRUTHER; Mr. W. H. FISHER; Lord STANLEY

TREVELYAN, Right Hon. Sir G. O., Bart., *Glasgow, Bridgeton*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1362, 1367, 1383, 1392, 1401; *Aug* 4, 1472, 1497, 1498, 1499; *Aug* 5, 1536; *Aug* 6, 1713, 1741
Business of the House *July* 24, 611, 612

**Trout Fishing Close Time (Scotland) Bill**
*c.* Withdrawn *Aug* 1, 1318

**Truck Bill**
*c.* Considered as Amended: Mr. J. Samuel, 766, 769, 776, 777, 781; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 766, 777, 781; Mr. H. H. Asquith, 766, 774; Mr. G. Whiteley, 767, 769, 774; Sir Matthew White Ridley, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, (*Amendt.*) 773, 779, 780; Sir C. Dilke, 767, 770, 772; Mr. J. Rutherford, 768; Mr. P. J. Stanhope, 768, 769, 773; Mr. J. Wilson, 769, 777; [Mr. Speaker, 770, 771, 776, 778;] Mr. H. J. Tennant, 771; Mr. G. Harwood, 772, 773, 777, 779; Colonel Denny, 775; Mr. G. W. Wolff, 777; Mr. J. Burns, 778; (*Division,* 779); Mr. R. McKenna, 779, (*Amendt.*) 780; Mr. S. T. Evans, 781; *Adj. July* 27
Considered as Amended; Debate Resumed: Mr. R. McKenna, 1077, 1083, 1084, 1086, 1087; (*Amendt. withdrawn,* 1077); Mr. J. Samuel, 1077, 1093, 1094; Sir Matthew White Ridley, 1078, 1079, (*Amendt.*) 1079, 1082, 1084, 1086, 1088, 1090, 1092, 1093; Mr. L. R. Holland, 1080; Mr. H. H. Asquith, 1082, 1084, 1087; Mr. J. Kenyon, 1082; Sir C. Dilke, 1083, 1086, 1088, 1090, 1093; Mr. G. Whiteley, 1083, 1087, 1093, 1094; (*Amendt. Agreed to,* 1083); Mr. T. Lough, 1083, 1092; Sir R. Webster, 1083, 1085, 1088; Mr. W. R. Bousfield, 1086, 1091; Mr. J. Burns, 1088, 1090; Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, (*Amendt.*) 1088; Mr. G. Drage, 1090; Mr. J. W. Crombie, 1092; Mr. J. F. Flannery, 1092; (*Amendt. Agreed to,* 1092); Mr. J. Brigg, 1092, 1093 *July* 30
Read 3° and Passed *July* 30, 1094
*l.* Read 2ª and com. to Com. of Whole House *Aug* 4, 1438
In Com. *Aug* 6, 1650
Rep. without Amendt.; Standing Com. negatived *Aug* 6, 1650

TUITE, Mr. J., *Westmeath, N.*
Royal Canal Company (Ireland) *July* 20, 138; *July* 23, 465

Tully, Mr. J., *Leitrim, S.*
Army Pensions (Thomas Bryson) *July* 23, 473
Athlone Town Clerkship *July* 28, 818
Birr Military Barracks *July* 30, 1032
Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway Company *July* 20, 147; *July* 27, 689
Charge of Murder (Sligo County) *July* 24, 605
Death of a Workman (Glasgow) *July* 31, 1253
Drainage Charges (Ireland) *July* 23, 473
Irish Treason-felony Prisoners *July* 27, 698; *July* 28, 831
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 526, 567; *July* 28, 873, 903
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1118, 1120, 1121, 1125; In Com. *July* 30, 1128
Postal and Telegraphic Facilities (Ireland) *July* 21, 248
Royal Commission on Financial Relations *July* 31, 1263
Supply
£616,077 for National Education in Ireland *July* 24, 626, 640
£137,341 for Public Works and Buildings (Ireland) *July* 24, 662
£19,503 for Railways (Ireland) *July* 24, 663

**Uganda Railway Bill**
*c.* 2R. Mr. H. Labouchere, (*Amendt.*) 705, 707, 709, 710, 711; Mr. Burdett-Coutts, 707, 720, 722; Mr. Curzon, 709, 710, 711, 716; Sir C. Dilke, 709; Sir W. Harcourt, 716, 717, 719, 720, 722; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 719; [Mr. Speaker, 722;] Mr. Gibson Bowles, 723; (*Division*, 724) *July* 27
Read 2° and com. *July* 27, 724
In Com., Mr. D. Lloyd-George, 1094, 1102, (*Amendt.*) 1103, 1106; Sir M. Hicks Beach, 1094, 1096, 1098, 1103, 1104, 1108; Mr. J. H. Lewis, 1094, 1097, 1098, 1105; Mr. R. W. Perks, 1095, 1096, 1098, 1100, 1101, 1103, 1105, 1108; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 1098, 1103, 1106, 1107, 1108; Dr. Clark, 1099; Mr. Curzon, 1100, 1101; Mr. Bryn Roberts, 1101; (*Division*, 1102); Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 1103; [Chairman, 1105;] Mr. J. Caldwell, 1105; (*Amendt. withdrawn*, 1107) *July* 30
Rep. without Amendt. *July* 30, 1109
3R. Mr. J. H. Lewis *Aug* 1, 1318
Read 3° and Passed *Aug* 1, 1318
*l.* Read 1ª *Aug* 4, 1439
(For Questions see Railways; subheading *Mombasa-Uganda*)

*Universities (Scotland) Act 1889*
*Ordinances Nos. 151, 152, 153, 154*
Regulations Laid before the House (*l.*) *July* 30, 993; (*c.*) *July* 31, 1244

Ure, Mr. Alexander, *Linlithgow*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1371, 1383; *Aug* 4, 1470, 1490, 1507, 1508; *Aug* 5, 1540, 1544; *Aug* 6, 1730, 1735, 1737

*Vaccination*
*Royal Commission, Q.* Mr. J. G. Talbot; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour *July* 24, 611. *Q.* Mr. T. Bayley; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *Aug* 6, 1677

Valentia, Viscount, *Oxford*
Yeomanry Cavalry (Long Service Medal) *July* 24, 599

*Venezuela*
*Arbitration and*—Marquess of Salisbury (*Announcement*) *July* 17, 1
*Further Documents Relating to Boundary*, Pres. (*l.*) *July* 17, 6
*Statement of Case, Qs.* Mr. J. Morley; *As.* Mr. Curzon, Mr. J. Chamberlain *July* 27, 687

**Vexatious Actions Bill**
*l.* In Com., Rep. without Amendt. and re-com. to Standing Com. *July* 17, 9
Rep. from Standing Com. without Amendt. *July* 21, 245
Read 3ª and Passed *July* 23, 429
*c.* Read 1° *July* 27, 674

Vincent, Colonel Sir C. E. Howard, *Sheffield, Central*
Army Food Supplies (Ireland) *July* 30, 1045
British Trade Abroad (Commercial Attachés) *July* 27, 676
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 23) Bill *July* 28, 805
National Rifle Association (Ammunition) *July* 30, 1025, 1026
Volunteer Corps (Financial Position) *July* 30, 1052
Water Supply (London) *July* 28, 820

**WALES**
*Land Tax Commissioners, Q.* Mr. J. H. Lewis; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 23, 483
*Llanelly Harbour Bill* (see that Title)
*Local Loans, Q.* Mr. Ellis Griffith; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 6, 1693
*Merionethshire Mines Committee, Q.* Mr. T. Ellis; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 30, 1054
*Parachute Accident (Cardiff), Q.* Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Sir Matthew White Ridley *July* 28, 826
*Welsh Wills (Translation) Q.* Mr. J. H. Lewis; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *Aug* 3, 1348

Wallace, Mr. Robert, *Perth*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 5, 1523

Waring, Colonel T., *Down County, N.*
Compensation to Police (Ireland) *July* 20, 124
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 20, 208, 218, 219; *July* 21, 321, 322, 326; *July* 22, 370, 380, 389, 390; *July* 23, 507, 569; *July* 28, 874
Listowel Union (Kerry County) *July* 23, 477
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Warner, Mr. T. Courtenay T., *Staffordshire, Lichfield*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 5, 1550
Aldershot (Tent Floor Boards) *Aug* 4, 1443
Boiler Explosion (*H.M.S.* "*Blake*") *Aug* 4, 1442
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1111, 1114, 1119
Machine Guns *Aug* 4, 1442
Naval Sub-Lieutenants *Aug* 4, 1442
Staffordshire Militia (Rifle Range) *Aug* 4, 1443
Supply
  £127,542 for Privy Council Office for Trade, Salaries and Expenses *July* 31, 1314
  £376,571 for Stationery and Printing *Aug* 5, 1551
Uganda Railway Bill, In Com. *July* 30, 1103
West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1753

**WAR OFFICE**

Secretary of State—Marquess of Lansdowne
Under Secretary of State—Mr. Brodrick
Financial Secretary—Mr. J. Powell-Williams
(See Army)

Warr, Mr. Augustus F., *Liverpool, East Toxteth*
Rule of the Road at Sea *July* 30, 1038

**Waterford Corporation Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

**Water Provisional Orders Bill**
*l.* In Com., Rep. without Amendt.; Standing Com. negatived *July* 17, 7
Read 3ª and Passed *July* 20, 111

**WAYS AND MEANS**

*Finance Bill* (see that Title)
*Land Tax (Operation of Finance Bill)*, *Q.* Mr. J. Caldwell; *A.* Sir M. Hicks Beach *July* 17, 35. *Qs.* Mr. E. Robertson, Mr. J. Caldwell; *As.* Sir M. Hicks Beach, Mr. Graham Murray *July* 20, 144

**Weaver Navigation Bill**
Royal Assent *July* 20, 110

Webster, Mr. R. G., *St. Pancras, E.*
Naval Reserve *July* 23, 472

WEBSTER, Sir RICHARD E. (Attorney General), *Isle of Wight*
Assizes
  Arrangements *July* 21, 273
  Stafford *July* 30, 1055
British South Africa (Appointment of Select Committee) *July* 30, 1066

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Webster, Sir Richard E.—*cont.*
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 738, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 730
Corrupt Commission *July* 31, 1268
Lunatics (Trade Debts) *Aug* 4, 1453
Stafford (Assizes) *July* 30, 1055
Transvaal Raid *July* 30, 1043
Truck Bill *July* 30, 1083, 1085, 1088

Wedderburn, Sir W., Bart., *Banffshire*
East Indian Accounts *July* 30, 1046
Indian Budget *Aug* 6, 1701
Maharaja of Jhalawar *July* 21, 286

**Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill**
*c.* Mr. Ritchie, (*Application for leave to Intro.*) 1056; Mr. Gibson Bowles, 1056 *July* 30
Intro. Mr. Ritchie; Read 1° *July* 30, 1057
Withdrawn *Aug* 3, 1415
(For Questions see Trade, Board of, sub-heading Metric System)

**West Highland Railway Guarantee Bil**
*c.* In Com., Mr. E. Strachey, 992; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 992 *July* 29
In Com., Mr. Luttrell, 1751; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1752, 1753; Mr. J. H. Dalziel, 1752, 1753; Mr. Munro Ferguson, 1752; Dr. Clark, 1753; Mr. J. P. Whittaker, 1753; Mr. J. McLeod, 1753; Mr. T. C. T. Warner, 1753; Mr. J. H. Lewis, 1753; R.P. *Aug* 6
(For Questions see Railways)

Wharton, Mr. J. L., *York, W.R., Ripon*
Locomotives on Highways Bill *July* 30, 1112, 1113, 1118

White, Mr. J. Martin, *Forfarshire*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1357, 1397; *Aug* 4, 1477, 1491, 1499; *Aug* 5, 1539; *Aug* 6, 1718

Whiteley, Mr. George, *Stockport*
Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 728
Truck Bill *July* 27, 767, 769, 774; *July* 30, 1083, 1087, 1093, 1094

Whittaker, Mr. T. P., *Yorkshire, W.R., Spen Valley*
Public Works Loans Bill, In Com. *Aug* 1, 1324, 1325
School Board Expenditure *July* 31, 1251, 1252
West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill, In Com. *Aug* 6, 1753

Williams, Mr. J. Carvell, *Nottinghamshire, Mansfield*
Bishopric of Bristol Act Amendment Bill, In Com. *Aug* 1, 1327, 1328

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WILLIAMS, Mr. J. CARVELL—*cont.*
- Burial at Shirland (near Alfreton) *July* 20, 122; *Aug* 6, 1688
- Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 745
- East Preston Guardians, Sussex (Voluntary Church Rate) *July* 20, 134
- Schools
  - St. John's (Heywood) *Aug* 6, 1687
  - St. Peter's Free (Chelsea) *Aug* 3, 1351
- Supply: £376,571 for Stationery and Printing *Aug* 5, 1553
- Ulverston Burial Board *July* 28, 812

WILLIAMS, MR. J. POWELL (Financial Secretary to the War Office), *Birmingham, S.*
- Army
  - Court-martial (Sergt. Sayers) *Aug* 3, 1347
  - Food
    - Forage and Supplies *Aug* 6, 1680
    - Supplies (Ireland) *July* 30, 1044, 1045
  - Pensions
    - Bryson (Thomas) *July* 23, 473
    - Murray (Hugh) *July* 24, 594
  - Supplies (Foreign) *July* 24, 600
- Artillery Range (Wicklow) *Aug* 3, 1352
- Belturbet (Cavan) Military Barracks *Aug* 6, 1679
- Enlistment *July* 23, 472
- Lee-Metford Rifle *July* 30, 1029
- Long Service Medal (Yeomanry Cavalry) *July* 24, 599
- Volunteer Medical Staff *July* 24, 603
- Wicklow Artillery Range *Aug* 3, 1352
- Yeomanry Cavalry (Long Service) Medal *July* 24, 599

WILSON, Mr. C. H., *Hull, W.*
- Fisheries Acts Amendment Bill *July* 21, 264
- Merchandise Marks Act *Aug* 6, 1701

WILSON, Mr. H. J., *Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth*
- Liquor Licence (Bombay) *July* 28, 813
- Maharaja of Jhalawar *July* 21, 291
- Reformatory Schools Act 1876 (India) *Aug* 4, 1444

WILSON, Mr. JOHN, *Durham, Mid*
- Coals Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 734, 745, 751, 754
- Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 727
- Truck Bill *July* 27, 769, 777

WILSON, Mr. JOHN, *Falkirk Burghs*
- Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 745, 753

WILSON, Mr. JOHN, *Lanark, Govan*
- Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 739
- Khamis (Pastor) *July* 27, 703
- Renewal of Licence (Dunbar) *July* 27, 684

WILSON, Mr. JOSEPH HAVELOCK, *Middlesbrough*
- Transmission of Seamen's Wages *Aug* 6, 1682

WINCHESTER, Lord Bishop of
- Infant Life Protection Bill, In Com. *July* 23, 421

WINCHILSEA AND NOTTINGHAM, Earl of
- Land Law (Ireland) Bill, 2R. *July* 31, 1181; In Com. *Aug* 6, 1565, 1576, 1591, 1599
- Rents in Ireland *July* 17, 19

WODEHOUSE, Mr. E. R., *Bath*

*(Ruling as Chairman of Committee)*
- *Miscellaneous Ruling*—*July* 17, 85, 94; *July* 31, 1304

WOLFF, Mr. G. W., *Belfast, E.*
- Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Bill *July* 27, 729
- Landing of Live Cattle at Belfast *July* 24, 604, 605
- Supply
  - £616,077 for National Education (Ireland) *July* 24, 620
  - £2,450 for Queen's Colleges (Ireland) *July* 24, 655, 656
- Truck Bill *July* 27, 777

**WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES OF THE CROWN**
- *Customs Office (Dublin), Qs.* Mr. W. Field, Mr. Swift MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 33
- *Drainage and Reclamation Work (Ireland), Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July* 17, 30
- *Greenwich Park, Q.* Lord Hugh Cecil; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 31, 1246
- *Holyrood Palace, Q.* Mr. Massey-Mainwaring; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 17, 28
- *Hyde Park (Rotten Row), Qs.* Mr. Gibson Bowles, Colonel Wyndham Murray; *As.* Mr. Akers-Douglas *July* 30, 1022
- *Public Works Loans Bill* (see that Title)

**Working Men's Dwellings Bill**
- *l.* Rep. of Amendts., Marquess of Londonderry; Further Amendt. made *Aug* 4, 1419
- Read 3ª; Amendts. made; Passed, and Sent to Commons *Aug* 6, 1650

WORKS, FIRST COMMISSIONER

Mr. A. AKERS-DOUGLAS

WORTLEY, Right Hon. C. B. STUART-, *Sheffield, Hallam*
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 751, 761

*(Rulings as Chairman of Committee)*
*Miscellaneous Rulings*—*Aug* 4, 1491, 1492

WYLIE, Mr. A., *Dumbartonshire*
Agricultural Rating (Scotland) Bill, In Com. *Aug* 3, 1371, 1380, 1397; *Aug* 4, 1472, 1494, 1495; *Aug* 5, 1539; *Aug* 6, 1745

WYNDHAM, Mr. GEORGE, *Dover*
Transvaal Raid *July* 30, 1043

WYNDHAM-QUIN, Major W. H., *Glamorganshire, S.*
Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment (No. 2) Bill *July* 27, 743

**Yeovil Corporation (Water) Bill**
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YOUNG, Mr. S., *Cavan, E.*
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English and Irish Mails *Aug* 3, 1343
Fire in Parcels Post Van *July* 30, 1027
Land Law (Ireland) Bill, In Com. *July* 28, 861
Letters from Belfast *Aug* 4, 1441
Supply: £616,077 for National Education in Ireland *July* 24, 624

YOXALL, Mr. J. H., *Nottingham, W.*
St. Matthew's School (Ponders End) *July* 30, 1028
Supply: £616,077 for National Education in Ireland *July* 24, 625

*Zululand* (see AFRICA)

END OF VOLUME XLIII, AND SEVENTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1896.

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